WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.

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"Hearts of youth,
High-beating, ardent, quick in hope and truth,
And noble anger, O wherever now
You dedicate your uncorrupted vow
To be an energy of Light, a sword
Of the ever-living Will, amid abhorred
Din of reeking street and populous den
Where under great stars blind lusts of men
War on each other. . . . .
O scattered, silent, hidden and unknown,
Be lifted up, for you are not alone!"

—LAWRENCE BINYON.

ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES (NUMBER OF SOCIETIES IN THE UNION 479).

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organized into 479 Societies, under the presidentship of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN? (Membership form on p. 1031.)

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Notes and Comments.

A Dramatic Opportunity.

The Premier has resigned his seat, and seeks re-election. The contest has come with dramatic suddenness, and the plan of campaign of the National Union has not been decided as we go to press; but in any case, the contest affords a magnificent opportunity for Suffragists. The Scottish Federation of the N.U.W.S.S. were in the field at once. Indeed, the news of the Prime Minister's resignation was in the papers on Monday night, and on Tuesday morning The Common Cause received a report of the beginning of the National Union campaign! It is up to every member of the Union to be as prompt in sending offers of help to the Scottish Federation, to whose lot so large a share of election work has fallen recently. The Treasurer of the Union appeals in another column for financial help. Let everyone remember how heavy a burden has been borne by Scotland, and do their part in easing it as far as possible.

Our Case Against the Government.

We must bring home to Mr. Asquith's constituents the facts concerning our case against his Government. The N.U.W.S.S. has issued at intervals (and notably in The Common Cause of February 13th and 20th) statements on this subject, showing how the Suffrage question has been mishandled in the House of Commons; how time was refused when we had a large majority behind us and the militants were observing a truce; how pressure was brought to bear on Liberal supporters of the Government to withhold their votes when time was given at last; how reports of threatened resignations believed and not contradicted till the eleventh hour, frightened Nationalists and Liberals alike from our support. The "torpedoing" of the Conciliation Bill, and the breakdown of the Franchise Bill, introduced so late in the session as to make the position when it was lost irretrievable, are also part of our case against the Government.

Our Case Against Mr. Asquith.

But against the Prime Minister himself our case is stronger still. It was he who pledged his word to Mrs. Fawcett that his Franchise Bill would be drafted in such a way as to admit of an amendment including women. It was he who, when he found that this pledge could not be redeemed, refused to see or talk with those to whom it had been given. It was he who subsequently declared to a deputation from the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress, in the face of all the facts, that his pledges had been *literally fulfilled*. He did not say, observe, that he *could* not fulfil them, and that this was not his fault. He said he had fulfilled—"*literally fulfilled*"—them all!

The Case Against Anti-Democracy.

Mr. Asquith goes to his constituents as the champion of Democracy and the rights of democratic government. He is no democrat who persists in disfranchising half the people. Every argument that Mr. Asquith has ever brought against Women's Suffrage is an anti-democratic argument. His speech in the last Suffrage debate in the House of Commons was pure anti-Liberalism. He said, in brief, that men had done well for women—or, in other words, that, in his opinion, "good government" *is* "a substitute for self-government." We deny it, even if (which is at least unproven!) the government has been good. We demand self-government. Will the electors of East Fife ensure it to us?

The Coming Campaign.

All the facts of recent Suffrage history, its mismanagement in Parliament, its broken pledges from the Prime Minister, will be found in a pamphlet to be issued by the N.U.W.S.S., giving chapter and verse for every statement, and quoting the words actually used by Mr. Asquith. The pamphlet containing a report of the deputation sent to him by the N.U., on August 8th, 1913, should also be in the hands of every Suffrage speaker and worker this week. Frankly, the record is such a scandalous one that many people refuse to believe it. Let them have chapter and verse.

Votes for Women in India.

In view of the alarm with which Anti-suffragists regard the effect of Women's Suffrage on our fellow-subjects in India, it is interesting to learn from the *Morning Post* (March 27th) that, according to Mr. E. B. Havell (author of "Indian Architecture"), evidence was available of the existence of town councils in India as early as the tenth century, of which women might be members, and even (so says the *Morning Post* report) "Justices of the Peace!" We shall have to hurry up if we are to win level with our Indian sisters. Even now, women cannot exercise all the functions of a J.P., though two women have been invested with some of their responsibilities.

Women Doctors for Public Health Work.

Three women doctors are being appointed by the L.C.C. as members of the public health medical staff, at a salary of £400 a year, their duties being the medical inspection of school children. There are now, including the newly appointed ladies, about a dozen women doctors engaged in this work, and two who are employed in the work of infant life protection. We understand that previous appointments have been made subject to the compulsory resignation of women officers on marriage. On this occasion, Dr. Scott Lidgett strongly opposed this outrageous condition, but the debate was adjourned without any decision being arrived at before our going to press. We protest with indignation against these persistent attempts to penalise marriage. It is nothing short of a scandal that adult and responsible people should be subjected to such interference with personal liberty.

"Leave it to Nature!"

We publish elsewhere a report of the deputation to Lord Haldane on the question of admitting women to the practice of the law as solicitors. It will be seen that Mrs. Humphry Ward was a member of the deputation. Is it too much to hope that she will lay to heart the words of the Lord Chancellor, that we should *leave to nature, not to law, the limitations of women?* All the sense of the Suffrage movement lies behind those words! The City of London Solicitors' Company, however, does not feel that Nature can be trusted altogether, and is therefore urging the Law Society to oppose the Bill opening the profession to women. "Only human nature" is the comment usually made when people try to defend themselves from undesired competition. It *is* human nature, of course. It is the human nature that makes Women's Suffrage essential.

Starvation Wages.

A young woman was charged at Lichfield on March 25th with stealing certain articles of drapery. She was a shop assistant, and worked from 8 a.m. till 7.30 p.m. For this she received at first 3s. 6d. a week, and later 5s. Deductions for insurance, &c., sometimes brought her wage down to 1s. 6d. She did not "live in," and at the end of six months, she—stole. Mrs. Osler writes to the *Birmingham Daily Post*:—

"I happen to know that it was a woman, and through her a women's organisation, who saved this girl from ruin; who secured for her the legal advocate who made so effective a use of the shameful facts of her sweated labour; a woman who held out to her on her dismissal the offer of a home and decent employment; a woman prominently connected with the Women's Suffrage Movement, who was thanked by the Bench for her active interest in the case."

We thank her, too, and perhaps we may be forgiven if we say that this woman was Mrs. Kempthorne, the wife of the Bishop of Lichfield. Will other women who are too happy and contented to need a vote, ponder these matters, and ask themselves whether women are really too well protected to need any other defence than the chivalry of men? Can chivalry, however well-intentioned, avail at all in such a case?

Two Cases: A Contrast.

Julia Decies, convicted of the attempted murder of her lover, has been sentenced to seven years' penal servitude, and refused leave to appeal. On Wednesday, March 25th, at the Central Criminal Court, Edward Samuel Moyes pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of his wife by kicking her. He has received nine months' hard labour. Why?

"How is It the Man Gets Away?"

In trying a case of indecency against a Kilburn woman, Dr. J. S. Crone (Chairman) was informed that the man who was with her had escaped. Dr. Crone asked:—

"How is it the man always gets away in these cases, and the poor woman gets caught?"

The constable explained that the man escaped whilst he was showing him his warrant, which he demanded to see, as he doubted whether he was a constable. He admitted that it was unfortunate that he escaped. "I do not call it unfortunate," said Mr. Oliver. "Some other word is needed."

In Parliament.

[We make no attempt to give a full account of the week's proceedings in Parliament. Our aim is merely to show what Parliament is doing with regard to questions which we have special reason to think would be more satisfactorily dealt with if women had the vote.]

Thursday, March 26th.

National Insurance Act.

On the motion to go into Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Estimates,

Sir C. Kinloch-Cooke (Devonport, U.) moved :—

"That, in the opinion of this House, the working of the National Insurance Act shows that, while the cost to the State increases, the benefits held out to insured persons are, in many instances, not forthcoming, and there is reason to believe, in the near future, that the situation will become more acute, and a still larger number of insured persons will suffer."

The administration of the Act was severely criticised by several speakers, especially with regard to sanatorium benefit.

Dr. Addison (Hoxton, L.) contended that during the short time the sanatorium benefit had been in operation the Government had done their best to provide accommodation. The difficulties which had arisen with local authorities had not been confined to the machinery of the Act.

Mr. Forster (Sevenoaks, U.) was astounded that the President of the Local Government Board should claim that there was ample accommodation in the sanatoria for all insured persons suffering from tuberculosis. If that was so, how came it that all the insured people recommended for treatment in institutions were not getting it? The fact that the fund for the provision of sanatorium benefit had been depleted by the Government prevented Insurance committees giving institutional treatment to a large number of persons who ought to have it. He could quote cases of single-room families where the father was infecting his own children. That was a state of affairs of which members in all parts of the House ought to be ashamed.

Mr. H. Samuel said that the sum of a million and a half pounds was being spent to provide sanatoria for the whole population, and not for insured persons alone. Much of the accommodation hitherto provided for insured persons was avowedly of a temporary nature, and would have to be replaced. Twenty thousand persons had been treated in institutions, and ten thousand had received domiciliary treatment. It was not the case, however, that all the latter patients were so treated because there was not room in sanatoria or money to send them there. Domiciliary treatment was sometimes the best. Other speakers maintained that the treatment of tuberculosis under the Act was in many cases quite inadequate.

Mr. C. Bathurst (Wilton, U.) asked if the Insurance Commissioners could not do something with regard to the provision of skilled nursing for insured persons, on the ground that it would undoubtedly effect the more speedy and more certain recovery of sick persons, and thereby result in a large saving of money, which is now being expended upon medical benefit, and more particularly upon sickness benefit.

Mr. Hodge (Gorton, Lab.), speaking as an official of an approved society, said he was conscious of many defects in the Insurance Act, but it had been of incalculable benefit to the lower-paid workers of the country. A great many societies, however, found their funds were not sufficient to meet their responsibilities and liabilities with regard to women's sickness :—

"I had hoped that the two Members of the Government who addressed us would have given the House some assurance on that point, that they would not see the various societies bankrupted as a consequence of that deficiency. The amount of sickness benefit which women get at the present moment is so small that, were the amount to be reduced, it would hardly be worth having. I desire to press upon the Government the necessity of taking the House into their confidence, and telling us what they intend doing so far as that particular feature of the Insurance Act is concerned."

Friday, March 27th.

Feeding of Necessitous School Children.

Mr. Jowett (Bradford, Lab.) moved the second reading of the Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill. The promoters, he stated, had three objects :—

"(1) To enable meals to be provided for underfed children during school vacations; as it was found that needy children fed at school improved considerably in physique, but deteriorated when the schools were closed.

"(2) The abolition of the halfpenny rate; as in the poorer districts, where the rate yielded least, there were most necessitous children.

"(3) To extend the system of school meals to districts where the education authorities had hitherto refused to act. There were 317 local education authorities, and only 134 were doing anything to feed necessitous children."

Sir F. Banbury (City of London, U.), in moving the rejection of the Bill, said he realised that many children did not receive sufficient food; but he believed in what had been called the reactionary doctrine of the responsibility of the parent. The Bill destroyed that responsibility. The proper people to feed underfed children were the Poor Law authorities.

Mr. J. A. Pease (Rotherham, L.) welcomed the Bill, and trusted it would be read a second time unanimously. But he did not think the time was yet ripe for compulsion. He would like to see a provision in the Bill which would enable the local education authorities to punish parents when they did not provide the meals requisite for their children. But experience, so far, in connection with the provision of meals, showed that there had been no diminution in the recognised feeling that a parent should perform his duty to his child.

"During periods of unemployment, when a great number of men are thrown out of work and are unable to provide meals for their children, we have found that the number of cases have gone up in which the authorities provide the meals, but as soon as they get back to work the parents, in a large majority of the cases, directly they can afford to provide meals for their children, although they have been accustomed to have them provided for them during the period of unemployment, take a pride in feeding their own children out of their own resources. I do not believe that the provision of meals for necessitous children has a pauperising influence, which is going to do harm in the future, if it is well watched and carefully administered."

Other speakers expressed sympathy with the Bill as a whole, though objecting to certain clauses. The Bill was read a second time without a division, and committed to a standing committee.

Street Trading.

Restrictions on street trading, as contained in the provisions of Mr. Denman's Children (Employment and School Attendance) Bill, were considered in Standing Committee.

Mr. B. E. Peto (Devizes, U.) moved an amendment enabling a boy of the age of fourteen—instead of the age of fifteen, as provided in the Bill—to continue to carry on street trading if he held a licence, and if he were lawfully engaged in street trading before the passing of the Bill. He desired to alter the age of fifteen to fourteen because the school leaving age was proposed to be fourteen.

Mr. R. T. Denman (Carlisle, L.), and Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck (Nottingham, U.) pointed out that street-trading was not only a blind-alley occupation, but frequently led to crime. In many parts there was plenty of demand for boy labour in other occupations. The amendment was lost by 21 votes to 5.

March 31st.

Julia Decies.

Mr. W. Thorne (S.W. Ham, Lab.) asked whether the Home Secretary could see his way to recommend the remission of the sentence on Julia Decies, in view of her ill-health, and of the circumstances of the crime. The answer was in the negative.

MEN SUFFRAGISTS AND THE LIBERAL PARTY.

On March 25th, the Men's Liberal Suffrage Society came into being, with a membership of 250, and with indication of rapid growth to come. Its main object is to press for the adoption of Women's Suffrage, and with this purpose, it offers to Liberals an opportunity of meeting and considering the methods to be adopted.

Mr. Dickinson announced that the Society will endeavour to bring Liberal policy back into that course which alone is consistent with Liberal principles—by giving women the vote. He urged the members present to work with the Liberal party, putting Women's Suffrage in the forefront of their programme. A reference to the sincere attitude of the Labour party on this question was warmly applauded.

Mr. Acland explained that he, and some of the most influential members of the Cabinet, were unable to take their place as officers of this society at present, though they hoped that the time was not far off when they would be able to do so. He urged Liberals to remember that more could be done for Women's Suffrage by staying in the Liberal party than by leaving it; the party was suffering seriously by its failure to adopt Women's Suffrage, and therefore to fit this plank into its place in the official platform was an act quite consistent with loyalty to the Liberal party.

Mr. Martindale, of the Liberal Men's Association for Women's Suffrage, said that in Manchester and the North of England they were astonished at the readiness and at the amount of the support received by their society. They had gone one better than Mr. Acland anticipated, for they had

secured as their first President Sir John Simon the Attorney General.

The institution of this Suffrage Society of Liberal men, following close on that of the Union of Liberal Women, shows how anxious members of that party are becoming to secure the support of Women Suffragists.

LIBERAL MEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

IMPORTANT SPEECH BY SIR JOHN SIMON.

Sir John Simon (Attorney-General) was the guest of the evening at a dinner given at the Manchester Reform Club on Saturday, March 28th, by the Liberal Men's Association for Women's Suffrage. Mr. Barton, M.P., was in the chair. Sir John Simon, responding to a toast, said that was a gathering of Liberal men who were all agreed in thinking that the creed of Liberalism led inevitably to a belief in the principles of Women's Suffrage. He came there not as a member of His Majesty's Government: that did not, however, absolve him from declaring that he was a believer in the cause of Women's Suffrage, and that the time had come when some of them who were Liberals ought to admit they had been a little too much disposed to allow that belief to be treated as a kind of personal fad, as though it was an idiosyncrasy in an otherwise well-regulated mind. As practical people they ought to take the opportunity of viewing the position in which they stood, and of seeing what were the immediate prospects of that cause.

Need of a Government Measure.

Recent experience had convinced Women Suffragists that private bills for this purpose were really not likely to be effective, that they must organise themselves, and do all that they could to cultivate and promote public opinion, inside and outside the House of Commons, in order to secure that this question might be presented to the Legislature for them to vote upon in the name of the electors of this country in a way which was more likely to lead to a more successful issue than the promotion of any private bill.

"That I understand to be the opinion of those who have studied the tactics of this question very closely, and I believe the view which they entertain is the right view, and I subscribe to it."

Militancy.

What was the position, what were the difficulties and obstacles in front of them now? In the first place, there was the obstacle which consisted in the preoccupation of Parliament—he would go further, and say the preocupation of the Liberal Party—in other and older issues. Here, again, he wished to be perfectly candid and frank with his Liberal friends who were Women Suffragists. He took the view that as long as they had the problems on which they were now engaged to deal with and to solve, they had, in the circumstances of the case, a claim on the undivided support of the Liberal Party, which must be regarded as prior to the carrying out of their own Women's Suffrage proposals.

In the second place, there was the tremendous and forbidding obstacle of militancy, which was doing incalculable harm:—

"No one can exaggerate the harm that is being done from day to day in disturbing the judgment and neutralising the enthusiasm of constitutional Liberals which is due to this fatuous and wicked policy. But let us denounce with all severity the attitude of any man who uses these outbursts of militancy as a reason for disavowing the faith that is in him. We regret it, we deplore it; we are convinced that it is undermining, for the time being, the natural popularity which ought to attach to a reasonable cause which is sincerely advocated. But it makes no difference to the faith which is in us."

Effect of an Electorate Answerable to Mothers.

After a reference to the deputation which had asked the Lord Chancellor to promote a bill enabling women to become solicitors, of which he expressed approval, Sir John Simon called attention to an incident at the House of Commons on Friday, when the great majority of members left the House of Commons when the subject to be discussed was the feeding of school children. If every member had felt he had to go amongst an electorate and be answerable to mothers and wives who were devoting themselves to the children growing up, this bill would not have been discussed in an almost empty House.

In concluding, Sir John Simon said they must do their utmost to see that women were no longer regarded as mere camp followers in the Liberal army, but that they should take their place, not as irregulars, or even as auxiliaries, but as fully enfranchised citizens, marching side by side with them in pursuit of causes which modern politics specially existed to explore, and the solution of which they were concerned in securing. It was a plain obvious deduction from the principles of Liberals themselves that the vote should be conceded to women.

Experience of Colonies.

Sir Victor Horsley, in proposing the toast of the Association, pointed out that colonial experience disproved the common objection that the grant of the vote to women would check progressive legislation.

The N.U.W.W. and MRS. HUMPHRY WARD.

The National Union of Women Workers has sent a letter to members of Mrs. Humphry Ward's "Joint Consultative Committee," pointing out that the Union is doing, and has been doing, the work which Mrs. Ward has started a new organisation to do over again. The writers say:—

"This Union, of which the Queen is Patroness, has forty-nine Branches in England and Scotland, with 7,503 members, and has 1,582 Societies engaged in work for women and children affiliated to it.

"It has a number of Sectional Committees composed of persons with special experience and knowledge.

"The Legislation Committee considers in detail all Bills before Parliament affecting women and children, and takes steps to have necessary amendments brought forward.

"The Industrial Committee studies industrial questions, promotes necessary reforms, and watches the effect and administration of industrial laws.

"The Rescue and Preventive Committee studies all questions connected with the social evil.

"The Education Committee is composed of leading educationalists concerned with every kind of education, from primary to university.

"The Public Service Committee brings together women serving on public bodies of all kinds throughout the whole country. It studies the administration of new Acts affecting social welfare, and points out any defects which may have appeared in their practical working.

"Other Committees are engaged in other departments of work, and, as necessity has arisen, special Committees have been formed on which Members of Parliament and others have served."

The writers go on to enumerate the work done by these Special Committees, and end:—

"The forty-nine Branches of the National Union of Women Workers are represented on these various Committees, and thus the experience of the whole country is brought to bear on the central bodies. Resolutions passed by the various Committees and by the Council of the Union at its annual meeting, dealing with a wide range of subjects, have been sent to the Government at various times. Deputations have interviewed Ministers and public authorities in connection with many matters affecting women and children.

"We would urge that it is in the interests of all who have the welfare of women and children at heart to associate themselves with the work that is already being done, rather than to run the risk of over-lapping and waste of power by starting a new organisation."

The letter is signed by—

Mrs. Creighton, President.
Lady Emmott, Convener, Legislation Sectional Committee.
Hon. Lily H. Montagu, Convener, Industrial Sectional Committee.
Lady Isabel Aberdeen, Convener, Public Health Sectional Committee.
Miss Agnes M. Hitchcock, Convener, Education Sectional Committee.
Mrs. Almyra Gray, Convener, Public Service Sectional Committee.
Mrs. Gertrude S. Gow, Convener, Rescue and Preventive Committee.
Lady Laura Ridding, Convener, Special Committee for Safeguarding Women's Interests under the National Insurance Act.

THE NATIONAL CARE OF MATERNITY.

On March 26th a meeting of the Fabian Women's Group was held at Caxton Hall to discuss "The National Care of Maternity and its Relations to the Amendment of the Insurance Act."

Mrs. Sidney Webb, who presided, said that the subject had been brought to a point by a national crisis which related to the solvency of the Insurance Act. The approved societies under the Act that dealt with married women were rapidly going into insolvency. There was a deficit of about a million pounds on the societies and three quarters of a million on women's benefit societies—or as someone had worked it out, the scheme was going to the bad at the rate of something like 27s. a minute. Practically the whole of this deficit was due to pregnancy sickness. The great mistake that had been made was that the Government, when dealing with women, had not consulted women, and the consequence was they forgot there was such a thing as pregnancy, and so, as concerns women, there would be a deficit of a million and a half by next year.

Mr. Lloyd George's probable proposal to the Government would be to give to these societies a lump sum of from £5 to £7 for each case of pregnancy. If you took this course, the easiest

and cheapest, you were telling every married woman that it was to her interest to remain in industry until she had her baby. This extraordinary proposal would not be made if women were represented in Government.

Miss Margaret Bondfield, Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, in the course of her speech, explained that about a million of women of the working class were excluded from the maternity benefit as they did not come under the Insurance Act; also, that the sickness benefit was conditional upon incapacity to work—it being left to the officials to interpret this statement as they chose. The result was that if the sick visitor found a woman washing up the tea things, or looking after her baby, she might be told she must declare off the funds. The women, in consequence, either went back to work too soon because they could not bear to sit and do nothing all day, or else they evaded the sick visitor. What a woman wanted was the right kind of work to keep her healthy. The approved society official was unfitted to deal with this question. With the coming of the maternity benefit the mothers had felt they could depend upon the money they would receive to be of real help to them, but the midwives and doctors had raised their fees and the women had been actually poorer through the maternity benefit. The scope of the Act was insufficient to meet the needs.

She advocated a municipal medical centre, with a woman doctor at the head, the State money to pass through the centre, and the pregnancy payment to be made by it to the women. They desired the services of thoroughly trained midwives, who would be expected to be consulted during the early months of pregnancy and who would watch over the mother, preparing her and keeping her in a normal condition of health, while if special treatment were needed the midwife should pass her on to the maternity centre. Then they desired the compulsory notification of births and stillbirths throughout the country, also some kind of guarantee and encouragement to the women to abstain from heavy work during the weeks before and after the birth of the child. They suggested a grant of £7 10s. for the birth of every child who came under the Act, to be made by the State. The plan was that the mother could have either 30s. cash at confinement, or 20s. cash and the free services of the municipal midwife; she would receive the remaining £3 10s. in weekly instalments before and after confinement. A fund would be formed with the money which remained from the total grant of £7 10s., and would be pooled according to the needs of the different cases. Lastly, the medical service should be co-ordinated that the child might receive sufficient care from 'ts pre-natal days until it reached school. They wanted the Local Government Board to take this matter over, and an immediate grant was needed with which to form maternity centres.

EMANCIPATING THE CHAIN MAKERS.

Increase in the Minimum Rates.

A meeting of an unusually interesing character was held a few weeks ago in Cradley Heath. There has been peace in the chain industry since the great days in 1910, when, as though suddenly awakening from a stupor, the chain makers put down their hammers, with the determination not to pick them up again until they received the new minimum rates, the application of which certain employers in the trade were endeavouring to delay. How the women, helped by public generosity, won that memorable struggle, is now a matter of history; and its monument remains in the attractive Chain Makers' Hall, built for them out of the residue of their strike fund.

The new rates were given, but with foreboding—the trade could not stand the increased wages, and the women, so far from receiving better payment from their work, would be unemployed, and consequently without any payment at all. S it was said. These croakings soon ceased, for the trade did not languish; it flourished exceedingly. Indeed, not enough workers could be secured, and the employers are now distressed that young people are not entering in the required volume. Is it wonderful that, under these circumstances, the representatives of the women pressed for an advance in the too meagre rates originally fixed for them? An advance of 10 per cent. was agreed upon, and the women assembled to hear the good news.

One who knew Cradley Heath in its Lenten days could not but be struck by the altered mien and spirit of the women. Poor, ill-dressed, marked by the rigour and want which was their constant portion, the chain makers in 1910 might have moved even the hard-hearted to tears. Of this poverty, there was at the recent meeting little evidence, better clothes being worn by women in better spirits and in better physical condition. Three years of trade unionism and of higher wages had made an astonishing alteration, and now another step in the ladder was to be climbed.

Only one barrier was in the way. Some of the employers, as in 1910, were inclined to withhold the 10 per cent, as, under the Act, they are entitled to do, for six months, and the workers, whose courage is now high, were not in the mood to submit to the deprivation. A bold note was struck by the speakers, and eagerly cheered, and Cradley Heath seemed on the brink of further trouble. Happily, it is now blown over, and an arrangement made with the Employers' Association ensures the women, without any struggle, the practically immediate payment of their new rates. So Cradley Heath has again picked up its hammers, and is working with heightened zest.

J. J. M.

WOMEN AS SOLICITORS.

On March 27th the Lord Chancellor received a deputation from the Committee for the Admission of Women to the Solicitors' Profession. The deputation was introduced by Mr. J. W. Hills, M.P., and amongst those composing it were:—

Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P., Sir Frederick Pollock, Bt., Mrs. Fawcett, the Countess of Selborne, Lady Emmott (representing the National Union of Women Workers), Mrs. Garrett Anderson, Dr. Jane Walker, Mrs. Humphry Ward, Miss Violet Markham, Miss Mary McArthur, Mr. G. Radford, M.P., Mr. J. W. Hills, M.P., Mr. J. J. Withers, Miss Bebb, Miss Costello, Miss Nettlefield, and Miss Ingram.

Mr. J. W. Hills stated that in consequence of the decision of the Court of Appeal that women were not admissible as solicitors, a single clause bill had been brought in this year which was backed by members of all parties. He reminded the Lord Chancellor that he had himself appointed two women as Justices under the Lunacy Act.

After Mrs. Fawcett, Sir F. Pollock, and Lord Robert Cecil had spoken, the Lord Chancellor said, in reply, that he was strongly of opinion that they ought to leave it to nature, and not to the law, to determine what the disabilities of women were. Speaking for himself, he was entirely in favour of the principle of the Bill; as were also the Prime Minister and the Law Officers of the Crown, to whom he had spoken. Sir John Simon, who was a person very much concerned in the matter, was in sympathy with it.

He could not make any promise about Government time, because it was not in his power to make any such promise; but later in the session it very often happened, when there was a bill about which there was an approach to general agreement, the conditions became easy, and if they watched that situation, and kept in communication with the Attorney-General, he was sure they would find a sympathetic ear.

MILLWALL STRIKE SETTLED.

The strike at the factories of Messrs. E. & E. Morton, at Millwall, was settled on March 27th, terms satisfactory to both employers and employed being agreed upon through the good offices of the Mayor of Poplar. These were:—

(1) No present worker to be dismissed.
(2) Present wages will not be reduced.
(3) Young girls will not be employed on the drying process.
(4) Young girls will only be taken on so that experienced workers may be available at 18, and then only as vacancies arise; and
(5) No present workers to be penalised on account of this dispute.

THE CASE OF MRS. ANNIE WILLIAMS.

Mr. Stanhope Bedding informs us that he secured 200,954 signatures to the petition for the release of Mrs. Williams, who was, it will be remembered, convicted of the murder of her child under very tragic circumstances, and condemned to death, the execution being deferred till after her confinement. As a result of the petition Mrs. Williams has received a conditional pardon, which means an early release, but not entire freedom. Mr. Bedding desires to thank readers of the Common Cause for their help. He has spent £6 7s. 8d. in the work, and has received £2 10s. 10d. towards it. We congratulate him on the result of his work, and suggest that those who are interested should help to defray this expense. Donations should be sent to 195, Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Margate.

SUFFRAGE IN IRELAND.

A DEPUTATION AND ITS MORAL.

The deputation from the Northern Committee of the Irish Women's Suffrage Federation to Sir Edward Carson, reported in your columns of last week, was not as disappointing as it appeared at first sight. It was known already that Sir Edward is, and has always been, in more or less sympathy with the Anti-suffragists. It was fairly well known that some of the leading spirits in the Council of the Women's Ulster Unionist Association are of the same way of thinking. It was, therefore, something that the pressure of friends within the Unionist camp had induced Sir Edward, beset by interviewers of all possible descriptions, to see a deputation from the non-militant Suffrage organisation of Ireland, and that he definitely promised to give careful consideration to one at least of the points brought forward by the deputation—the demand that a referendum in the Ulster counties, if accepted, should be on the basis of the Municipal Register.

The moral of the whole was contained in one remark—that he could promise nothing, as his party was divided on the subject. The moral is clear. Political leaders do not always lead; they sometimes follow. I wish to emphasise in the very strongest way that if promises from a leader are to be obtained, the party which he leads must be approached. Every local party organisation of every shade of political opinion, should be approached in order to secure a realisation of the strength of the Suffrage movement and the nature of the Suffrage demand. These are the two points which must be impressed on all political parties, and on all responsible for the working of the party machine, while at the same time it should be made clear that the Suffrage movement in Ireland is not allied with any party. In every political party now there is a Suffragist leaven. Our business is to help the growth of this, until the whole party is leavened. This prospect is not as distant as it might appear. There is another point. Everyone who has studied the events of the last week must have realised the enormous effectiveness of the "passive resistance" undertaken by the Army. Whether this resistance were necessary or unnecessary, justifiable, or unjustifiable, is not my point. It was effective.

Now, in what ways can we women use this weapon of passive resistance? In the first place, we can refuse to do political work for political parties. That may seem an old story, but were I at liberty to tell all that has been involved in the history of the last three years, I could produce fresh evidence in support of it. It is my deliberate conviction that the vote will be gained, not by making ourselves useful to politicians, but by refusing to do so. As long as we continue to do their work, they will continue to give us those fine words which butter no parsnips. In other words, I at least hold, though I speak for myself only, that no Suffragist should work for any party organisation. The refusal of a few capable women would do more to bring the Suffrage than will a score of successful meetings.

Lastly, let us make more use of that excellent institution, the penny post. If a party leader says something of which we do not approve, let us write from all the four quarters of the British Isles to let him know the fact. Once upon a time, a Liberal Prime Minister advised a deputation of Suffragists to "make nuisances of themselves." Some of us think the advice was taken with a docility disastrous in its results. But at any rate, we might follow it to this extent, and pester the offending Minister by letters of remonstrance.

Dora Mellone,
Secretary, Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation.

[*We have also received a communication from the Irish Women's Franchise League, in which militant action is threatened on the examples "of Mr. Redmond in the past and Sir Edward Carson in the present."*]

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

DENMARK.

A report has appeared in the press stating that Women's Suffrage has been granted in Denmark, but we can get no confirmation, and think it very improbable that it is correct. The situation is exceedingly favourable, but hardly so far advanced as stated.

MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives, by 164 votes to 39, concurred with the Senate in adopting an amendment to the State Constitution by which the word "male" will be struck out from the provision describing the qualifications of a voter. The amendment will be submitted to a referendum of the voters probably in the autumn of this year.

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Studies in Freedom.

(I.)

Everyone is familiar with the arguments—employed equally by timid and lukewarm supporters of women's emancipation as by its most hostile opponents—drawn from an imaginary picture of the effects that would accrue from that emancipation, once granted. From the possession of the right to vote, they pass, immediaely and correctly, to the representation of women in Parliament. That done, they give the reins to their imaginations, and pour out, as facts well established, what these conjure up. The dodge is familiar to all who study actual politics, or political history. The mental process has been labelled, once for all, by the "wisdom of the nations," which speaks of "the wish being father to the thought."

Ad nauseam come the statements that, once equal rights with men are granted to women, we shall see disruption in the family, antagonism between men and women, husbands and wives; female voters and representatives swayed by sentiment; incapacity of political and legislative action and function; imperial questions imperilled or sacrificed to the sentimental predilections of women for matters of more personal interest; men clogged and hampered in the exercise of their deliberative and legislative functions by the presence of women and by the action of the female (*read* inferior) mind; and so on. The list can be almost indefinitely prolonged of statements like these, that have become a sort of automatic cat-call whenever the subject is broached.

Now comes a curious reflection. Countries exist, actually exist, where complete freedom for women obtains. In one, it has obtained for seven years, and material exists from which, once for all, the truth or falsehood of the above statements *et hoc genus omne*, can be drawn. It seems strange that none of those who employ these "arguments" should have thought of making these simple investigations. Or is it wisdom on their part? I propose to try and discover.

By the reform in the representation of the people of Finland in 1906, equal rights were given to men and women on obtaining their majority. This was a natural political step after the social evolution which had already given complete social equality to women, in education, career, sphere and social activity and influence. A further natural consequence was the entry of women into the Finnish Diet, as Parliamentary representatives of the people. And, as in Finland, small as are the country and its population, there are at least *four* political parties; burning questions and internal economy and organisation; social and economic difficulties; and one imposing question affecting the very life of the country, *viz.*, the question of its constitutional existence in face of Russian political aggression and encroachment—in virtue of all this Finland offers an object lesson of the first value for all who are interested in complete political equality for men and women, whether from friendly or from hostile motives.

At the last elections, twenty-one women were elected as members of the Diet, elected by men as well as by women. Of these, six are or have been teachers; three are journalists; one, a very able woman, quite self-made, has been a cook; two possess the high degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Helsingfors University; one, who has been a worker in the field of economics and has published a good book of labour statistics, is a factory inspector; two are seamstresses; one is the wife of a peasant (*i.e.*, a working farmer); the rest are wives of journalists or of working men. All have been, and are, active in some section of the fields of social and political service. That is surely a sufficient answer to the oft-repeated story of the incapacity of women in any general sense for political service, or to the fear that it is only women of the independent or leisured classes who are likely to apply themselves to politics. For here are represented all classes of society, to a much greater extent than they are represented among the male members of, say, the English Parliament.

Again, of these twenty-one members, twelve are married, and three of these have their husbands also in the Diet, belonging to the same parties, though, as my informant from the Diet declares, they do not always vote alike. Another illusion gone! There is no justification here for the theory of the "raging spinsters" and the woman who is incapable of home life, as the only potential M.P. Finland's experience gives no support to those who cry that women with political rights will be less womanly than in a state of political servitude, or that the exercise of political duties is incompatible with the exercise of the duties of a house-mother.

Such an experience does no more than tally with expectations founded on common sense. But by way of support I add a few

phrases from the careful opinion given by Senator Leo Mechelin, the "Grand Old Man" of Finland, on this very question.

"Women who have to bring up a family are so much the more capable of instilling into the rising generation the love of nation and fatherland, and of fostering in them a feeling of the duty of a common citizenship—than when they have no political rights or interest. *And as for the relations of married life, a broadening of the sphere of common interest is a gain.*"

W. T. Goode.

The April Magazines.

The Englishwoman has an important article on the political situation as regards Women's Suffrage, by "P. W. W." (Mr. P. W. Wilson). Its chief emphasis is on the fact that franchise reform (to which Liberalism is pledged) is absolutely impossible without the inclusion of women. "The policy of enfranchisement for men is as surely written off the Liberal programme as Women's Suffrage itself. . . . The position is thus stale-mate at Westminster, while the forces gain strength and discipline outside."

"Problems of the Day" deals with the hard case of the unmarried mother and her child, and gives an account of the Day Servants' Hostel, which is making an attempt to solve this question on novel and humane lines. In "Occupations of Women," C. E. W. Binney disposes of some errors in an article by Mrs. Colquhoun, appearing in the *Nineteenth Century* for March, and shows that "there has been a remarkable increase in the number of women following what might be called 'middle-class' occupations." The analysis of figures for this class is very interesting :—

Occupations.	Numbers Employed. 1901.	1911.	Increase per cent.
Medical, including nurses ...	38,380	58,322	51·9
Teaching	159,406	171,480	7·5
Literary, scientific, and political	1,478	4,729	219·6
Art, music, drama	30,354	37,825	24·6
Commercial and business ...	57,284	121,672	112·4
National and local government ...	20,416	40,282	97·3
Shop assistants ("dealers" in census returns)	156,055	215,905	38·3
Total	463,373	650,215	40·3

In "The Treatment of the 'Unsound,'" Sister Eirene puts forward a plea for a more rational treatment of patients who are only slightly deranged, or, perhaps, merely suffering from temporary nervous trouble, but who are often herded with insane persons, without privacy or quiet. She describes an interesting experiment in "boarding out" such cases. These are only a few out of a number of interesting articles.

Jus Suffragii contains articles on "International Questionaire on Women as Compositors: A Newspaepr run entirely by Women"; "The First Danish Woman Barrister" (interview and picture); "Municipal Suffrage in India"; "National Council of Women Voters, W.S.A."; "Progress in America"; and Reports from France, Italy, Hungary, Germany, Netherlands, Austria.

Blackwood's Magazine has a brilliant account of the work in the Balkan War entitled "Sketched in War Time," by a Woman Red Cross Surgeon.

The Labour Woman.—A short sketch, by J. Stephen, called "My First Place," which deals with the domestic service problem, and an article, by Mrs. Glasier, contrasting the systems in Austria and Denmark with that of Great Britain for caring for the aged poor, are of special interest. The *Labour Woman* disclaims sympathy with the article signed "A Mother," which appeared in the *English Review*.

Contemporary.—"Florence Nightingale in India," by Sir W. Wedderburn, Bart.

Nineteenth Century.—A horrible story of the old-horse trade with Antwerp, by Miss A. M. F. Cole.

The London Quarterly.—An article by Principal W. T. Davison, M.A., D.D., on "Browning's Portraits of Women"—"they are human, they are alive, they are sketched by a master hand."

Books and Pamphlets Received.

The Care Committee: The Child and the Parent. By Douglas Pepler. (Constable. 2s. 6d.)

Labour and Liberalism: An Examination of the Government's Record from a Working-Class Standpoint. By A. Fenner Brockway, with a Preface by J. Keir Hardie, M.A. (National Labour Press. 6d.)

The Dangers of Syphilis and the Question of State Control. (British Branch of the Abolitionist Federation, 19, Tothill Street, S.W. 3d.)

Adult School Social Service Handbook. (National Adult School Union, 1, Central Buildings, S.W. 4d.)

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DAME FASHION strikes an entirely different note in Mantle styles with the new "Cape"—a mode that will be very popular this season both for Day and Evening Functions. We are showing in our Mantle Salons a large variety of becoming Styles in the new Cape. We picture two of them :—

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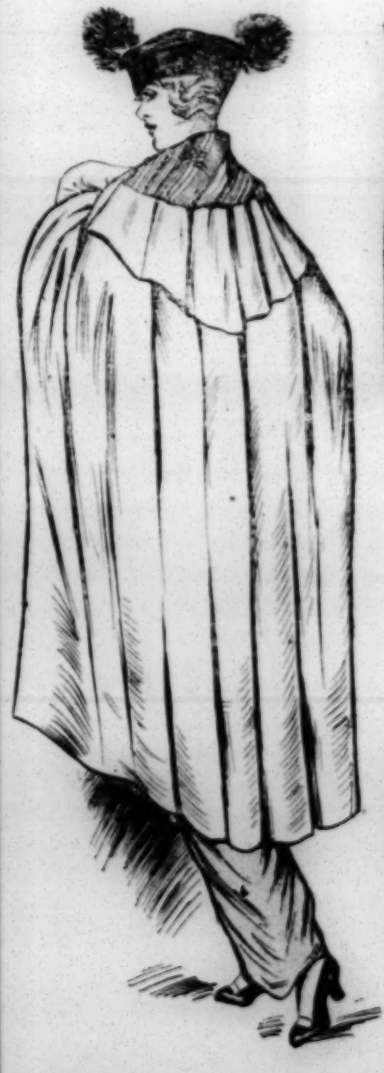

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Correspondence.

[Correspondents are urged to write briefly, as we receive each week a greater number of letters than we can possibly print. They are also warned to write on one side of a page only. Letters with writing on both sides must in future be consigned to the waste-paper basket.]

LORD SELBORNE'S SUFFRAGE BILL.

Madam,—May we appeal through your columns to all Conservatives who think that the demand of women for some representation in Parliament is not unreasonable, to give their support to the measure which Lord Selborne is introducing into the House of Lords.

This Bill proposes to give the vote to those women who have already the franchise for municipal bodies. They have exercised this franchise with the general approval of their fellow-countrymen for the last forty-five years, and there is no doubt that they would use further powers entrusted to them by Parliament, with equal wisdom and moderation. They represent every class of the community. The majority of them are widows who have to face all the responsibilities of life. Their number will not permit them to exercise any preponderating influence in elections, but they are widely distributed, and will be able to put forward the alterations and amendments which women desire in the laws from a great many different points of view. For the satisfaction of those who are nervous about numbers, we may say that the women enfranchised by this Bill would number about one-and-a-quarter million, and there are now over seven million male electors.

It is much to be wished that the Conservative party could give some satisfaction to the desire, so generally felt among women, for a share in the choice of Parliamentary representatives, and allay the discontent and unrest, which are such disquieting features of our time.

(Signed) Maud Selborne (President),
and the Executive Committee, C. & U.W.S.S.

THE PROBLEM OF THE MARRIED WORKING WOMAN. REPLY TO CRITICS.

Madam,—I am grateful for the interest shown by your correspondents in the views expressed in my articles. Their criticism is welcome and helpful; their objections and alternate suggestions may be summarised as follows:—

(1) Disagreement with my view that the work of the wife of the average working man does not advance human progress.

(2) Disagreement with my view that the circumscribed work of the married working woman is not an inevitable condition.

(3) Disagreement with my view that it *is* a narrow sphere.

(4) Suggested alternatives.

(5) Fear of the results of changes on the lines advocated.

To take these in their order:—

(1) It would be easy and pleasant to take the view that the devotion to duty shown by the vast majority of married working women is advancing human progress. But nothing is gained, and much is lost, by blinking facts, and in this case, alas! the facts are all against this view. That which advances human progress is that which tends to make better people, and which develops sensitive social conscience. The facts are that social development goes on in spite of, and much more slowly in consequence of, the unconscious influence against it of the woman whose whole soul is absorbed in a personal struggle with primitive domestic jobs. I must repeat again a fact which scientists and sociologists have made plain; that we develop by that which we do; and it follows, as night follows day, that if our whole powers are engaged in the personal service of a little group of people in whom we have an exclusive interest, we shall inevitably be hampered with a mental outlook circumscribed by the personal as distinct from the social. Not till woman substitutes love of service in humanity's good (which would, of course, include the good of her own particular beloved ones), can we possibly have ideals of government which would, as a matter of course, subordinate the personal greed for wealth on the part of individuals, to the human needs of the people as a whole. We may not shut up half our people (and those the mothers of the whole people!) as "queens" of homes, and drill into them from babyhood upwards that their noblest duty to humanity is to devote themselves to the personal service of whatever little group of individuals they happen to be associated with by ties of blood or affection, without our having to take the consequences—which are, of course, the inevitable and injurious despotism of the other half of the people who conduct the world's affairs outside (including the provision of homes for the queens).

(2) The fact that already a sufficiently large number of married women do not perform all the domestic jobs of their households, and are, nevertheless, happy wives and useful mothers, disposes of this objection. One correspondent points out that many working men hate their jobs. That is not news to a working woman who has lived all her life amongst working men, and who has suffered heartaches for particular ones on this same account. But working men have a little more choice than working women, after all, and they are not condemned, willy-nilly, to *one* occupation the moment they marry. Further, though it is admitted that much of the potential power and capacity for joy in work is denied opportunity of development in many of the sons of women, is that any reason why the potentialities (why not equally great?) of nearly all the daughters should be wasted?

(3) I suggest that the evidence of married working women themselves would be valuable here. I could supply reams, but may not for want of space. Yesterday, I heard a housing reformer (not an anti) state that one of the greatest obstacles to housing reform is the indifference and dislike to new ideas which characterises the married

working woman—she who suffers most from bad housing conditions. We could not have much better evidence of the narrowness of her sphere, which, of course, reacts on her mental outlook, and prevents her viewing housing as a social and not as a personal matter.

(4) The only suggested alternatives are that endowment of motherhood is only meant as a temporary expedient, and should be accepted as such, and that working women should not marry at all. Both these alternatives come from a habit of mind which is the outcome of sex and class subjection. It is closely allied to the attitude of the anti-suffrage man who denies the humanity of women because they are not men.

Endowment, and consequent riveting of the idea in the mind of the working woman that personal dependence on somebody or something is inevitable, because she is a woman and a mother, may have to be accepted because we are afraid to do justice to the working classes as a whole, and are determined to keep them in subjection; but it is legitimate to point out the danger to their human development, which is the extent of my liability.

As to the other alternative—it greatly instructs and amuses us working women to find other women viewing us as though we were curious specimens of an alien race, and wondering why we get married! It therefore becomes necessary to explain to those women who "cannot understand the working woman," that we are animated by the same emotions as are other classes of humans. We are actually fond of our husbands and children, and would rather be married than single! It may be strange, but it is true. It cannot be argued, surely, that because we persist in accepting the disabilities sooner than deny ourselves the joy of mating and motherhood, that the disabilities must remain? They are of a removable nature, whilst the impulse to mate and to reproduce is not removable, and we may as well confine ourselves to the practicable.

(5) As to the fears of those people who dare not let the working woman have the same freedom as the rich woman has, they are quite groundless, owing to the fact that working women are human, just like other women. One of my critics is afraid that "essential mother love" will be missing, when wise mothers unite in demanding that all that combined wisdom and scientific knowledge and skilled care which the nature can offer, shall be at the service of every baby born; and she adds a prayer for Heaven to defend us from this. Heaven, or whatever else the reader may substitute, has already defended us from this, and prayers are quite superfluous for this particular object. There can be no weakening of the bond between mother and child, however wise we may become in child-care. The bond which alone made possible the survival of the human race in the dark days of the beginnings of its upward evolutionary climb, will not break now that another step upwards has become inevitable!

ADA NIELD CHEW.

ARMED RESISTANCE.

MADAM,—In the courteous letter appearing in a recent issue, C.H.A.S. suggested that my comparison between the threatened militancy of Ulster and the militancy of the women suffragists will not hold. C.H.A.S. prefers comparing the Ulster man to a house-holder, defending his valuables "against a burglar who comes and tries to take them." May I point out here two very important distinctions? The house-holder of whom I presume C.H.A.S. to be thinking, acts legally; the Ulster Covenanters are prepared to defy all law, ready, as they say themselves (and as you observe in your "Notes and Comments"), to take "any action that may be effective" on their own behalf. If C.H.A.S. wants a comparison from burglary, let me suggest the aggrieved house-holder, who threatens that if the burglar's trial does not go in his own favour he will proceed to lynch law. The second distinction is that between Possession and Right. Unless we keep this clear, we may slip into the position of saying that any face may be used to keep a vote, but none to win it.

F. MELIAN STAWELL.

THE MIDDLE-CLASS PATIENTS IN THE COUNTY ASYLUMS.

MADAM,—I think your correspondents, "A Non-Official" and "An Old Asylum Worker" lose sight of the fact that I was writing of the position of middle-class patients in these institutions more especially. From their point of view, there are County Asylums in which the ordinary patients appear to be sufficiently comfortable, reasonably happy, and recover satisfactorily; they are at least with those of their own class, and do not miss what they have never been accustomed to have: but, should not those of the middle-class, who are unfortunately obliged to come on the rates, have at least equal rights? The herding together of patients of different ages suffering more or less severely from mental diseases causes needless suffering, and discomfort to all—often physical as well as mental!—and is inhuman and cruel to each.

To those who have been "better born and bred," and are therefore more highly organised, this enforced contact must aggravate the conditions of life generally existing in these sad, prison-like hospitals, and be often unendurable.

In Scotland, many of the public asylums are already giving the patients far more freedom and space, with the best possible results. There are few "bolts and bars," and the spacious grounds and surroundings are really used by the inmates themselves. May I ask the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE to test for themselves, by open enquiry and by visiting (not only upon the days appointed), the position of middle-class patients in our County Institutions.

"THE MOTHER OF ONE PATIENT."

[Owing to pressure on our space, several important letters have unavoidably been held over.]

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager*, The Common Cause, 2, *Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

"How it Strikes a Contemporary."

"'It is felt that the Government has blundered in the most unstatesmanlike way; that the Opposition has subordinated patriotism to party opportunism; and that the Army has shown surprising signs of an unmilitary spirit.' Thus it strikes the contemporary who stands outside our party conflicts. . . . That is the way justice is done at a distance, and this threefold verdict is, we imagine, substantially the opinion of all intelligent watchers in foreign countries."
Westminster Gazette, March 30th.

Many of the most sincere of our opponents are convinced that women cannot think imperially. It is for this reason, in fact, that they must not be allowed to interfere in imperial affairs. We wonder how the events of the last fortnight have struck them, and other "intelligent watchers" not only "in foreign countries" but also at home. To Suffragists it appears certain that no women politicians could possibly have made a more deplorable muddle than that which imperially minded men have made. We are now, it seems, on the brink of civil war. The Government, during the last few days, has apparently lost its senses; but the Opposition, in the most obliging way, presents them with an excellent election cry—"The Army against the people!" The Army, totally against its own inclinations, has been forced into the position of dictator. The Navy—part of it at least—occupies its leisure in exchanging messages of the warmest friendship with the Ulster volunteers. We are reminded of a "strike" story of Miss I. O. Ford's, wherein she described to us in moving terms the sympathy of certain strikers with "the military" who had been sent to quell them on a biscuit apiece, and the anxious efforts of the said strikers to provide these fierce quellers with food and other comforts before the quelling began. The position becomes farcical—if it were not so serious. But farces played out on such a scale and with such interests involved, are liable to turn into tragedies before they end. Does anyone seriously believe that no way could have been found out of this muddle? Are we really to choose, as a celebrated author recently put it, "between being governed by mental deficients or criminal lunatics"? (We leave it to our readers to cast the parts.) For ourselves, we refuse to believe that honest statesmanship could not have saved us from making in the eyes of "intelligent watchers in foreign countries" the incomparably ridiculous spectacle we have afforded them this week: we are certain that it was possible to find—what was even more important—a way of compromise, not indeed welcome to both parties or either party, for it was already too late for that; but at least compatible with peace and honour. A little commonsense, a little respect for the convictions of other people—in a word, a little less of militancy—and this *impasse* might yet have been avoided.

What has really happened? After all, it cannot truly be said that intelligence was lacking. The leaders of the various parties in Parliament may not be men of commanding genius, but it would be absurd to say that they are without intelligence. How then have they come to act like "mental deficients"? Undoubtedly because they have been blinded by party feeling. At every step in the proceedings, it seems to the looker-on, the one thought possessing all has been how to make party capital of what happened. Ireland—Nationalist and Unionist—the Army

—anything and everything becomes a pawn in the party game. No wonder the game seems confused to the looker-on!

We recently received from a correspondent certain proposals for a solution of the Women's Suffrage question, in which it was assumed (somewhat rashly, it appeared to us) that women neither would nor could wield political power on party lines. This, it was held, made the grant of the vote to them quite impossible, since nothing could be admitted for a moment which was likely to imperil or to weaken the stately edifice known as our "party system." We question whether women will be so independent of party as our correspondent supposed; but that they will be more independent than men have at this juncture shown themselves we do believe, and we *therefore* demand their enfranchisement. Surely the pass to which party selfishness has led us must convince even the most ardent of party politicians that something is rotten with the system.

Enfranchisement may be very near to us, in spite of the absorption of political interest in the Irish crisis. There is a time in the life of a movement when a serious set-back (like the withdrawal of the Franchise Bill) or such a crisis as that through which we are passing, means a real subsidence in its vitality and force. But there is also a time when nothing can seriously discourage or delay it. To such a pitch of strength the Suffrage movement has attained. While Ireland has been convulsed with internal dissension, and all minds—it might have been thought—absorbed in one issue alone, the Suffrage movement has gone forward by leaps and bounds. For long behind Great Britain in organisation and numbers, Irish Suffragists are now making up for lost time, and exactly when it might have been expected that they would have no time or thought for anything but the question of the Union. During the recent Suffrage Week in Dublin, when civil war was already a recognised possibility, Nationalist and Ulster women sat side by side and discussed the means of winning their enfranchisement. Some, who were already training for Red Cross work if war came, were there. They were, and are, prepared to serve with the men in case of need: they were not the less bent on winning freedom for women. Doubtless they were more bent. They could not fail to feel equally with their fellow Suffragists here, but even more dramatically, how infamously unjust is the refusal to let them share in decisions from which they are bound to benefit or to suffer equally with men. The men who wish—honestly wish very often—to shelter women from the hardnesses of life, can no more do so than they can shelter themselves. They decide: the women have to suffer if they decide wrongly, and no power on earth can avert that suffering. Women claim, then, the right to share in the decision since they must share its consequences. Nor will it be easy to persuade the most diffident of women in the future that they could not have exercised a little more common-sense, risen a little further above the consideration of pure party, than have on this occasion their imperially-minded rulers.

The Position of Widows Under the Poor Law.

II.

The object of my article last week was to show that widows with dependent children ought not to be under the Poor Law at all, and that Boards of Guardians are not the right bodies to deal with them. It makes no difference to this view whether the treatment of widows by Boards of Guardians is good or bad. A Board may be as progressive and Liberal in its administration as the Local Government Board's regulations permit. Its relief may be adequate in amount and well adjusted to each individual case. But the widow and her children will remain paupers all the same.

They will be regarded as dependents on the benevolence of the community; will be classed among the failures of society. This view of their position is fundamentally unjust, and bears no relation to the real facts of the case. If the widow is keeping her home and her children properly, she is carrying out her part of the implied marriage contract. She is not a failure because she cannot carry out her husband's part as well. It is he, if anyone, who has failed to keep his share of the bargain by maintaining his wife, and the children until they are old enough to look after themselves. But, unless his death has been a suicide, he can hardly be held responsible for it. It is, therefore, unjust to punish him vicariously for it by reducing his wife and children to the status of paupers.

This, however, will be regarded by many people as rather a theoretic than a substantial grievance. Questions of political or civil status when they affect men are very serious questions indeed, whether they arise as far off as South Africa, or as near home as Ulster. With women it is a different matter. It is worth while, therefore, to show that the position of widows under the Poor Law is not merely a question of status, but entails very practical evils.

The Majority and Minority Reports of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law are unanimous upon this matter. In addition to their own enquiries, they appointed three special investigators, Dr. Ethel Williams, Miss Longman, and Dr. Marion Phillips, to carry out an enquiry into the condition of women and children upon out-relief in a number of Unions, selected so as to be typical of the various centres of population, metropolitan, urban, and rural. Their results were published in Appendix Vol. 18 of the Commissioners' Report. This volume and the two main reports give between them an appalling picture of the conditions found in a large proportion of the Unions. The feature of the case which excited their strongest comments was the effect upon the children.

"Children who are brought up in the very midst of such conditions as we have seen, surrounded by disease, immorality, and drunkenness, are almost doomed to pauperism." (Majority Report, p. 152.)

The Minority Report is characteristically more expansive.

"The saddest feature of all is that no small proportion of the 134,000 children whom, in the United Kingdom, the Destitution Authority elects to bring up upon Outdoor Relief— in the course of a year, probably, as many as 600,000 different children—are to-day without any interference by these Authorities, chronically underfed, insufficiently clothed, badly housed, and, in literally thousands of cases, actually being brought up at the public expenses in drunken and dissolute homes." (Minority Report, p. 770.)

These evil conditions are clearly due in part to lax administration, and in part to inadequate relief. The policy of the Guardians in the majority of the Unions is shown to be at once careless and penurious. They give something to everyone, and enough to none or few.

"The large majority of Boards still give wholly inadequate allowances, and rely upon the insufficiency of their inquiries for 'unrevealed resources.' If these resources happen to exist, all is well; if they do not, then the recipient inevitably suffers." (Majority Report, Par. 254.)

"The dole given is practically never adequate to the requirements of healthy subsistence. The sums awarded are always mechanically doled out, according as the R.O. reports the applicant to come into one or other wide category . . . without any adequate ascertainment of the other resources." (Minority Report, I., 2.A.)

For the evils associated with lax administration, the Guardians are, of course, only partly to blame. The fault here lies mainly with the mothers. The Guardians' share of responsibility consists of their failure to insist that the grant of public money is made conditional upon the attainment of a certain level of good conduct and maternal care. If these conditions are not fulfilled, it would be far better to take the children into institutions. The reaction against barrack schools seems to have driven some Boards into the opposite extreme of regarding even the worst home as preferable to the best institution. But even the inefficiency of many of the mothers is obviously due in many cases in some degree to their inadequate resources. It is useless to expect energy and resource from a woman who is habitually underfed. It must be difficult even for a capable woman to keep her home and children nicely when every penny that is spent on soap and starch, on repairs and renewals of household gear, on clothing and boots, has to be cut off the weekly food or coal allowance. It must be hard to teach boys and girls good habits, or to "bring them up respectable," when they have to live under overcrowded conditions, in an insanitary slum, because the money set aside for rent will not pay for anything better.

The investigators' inquiries showed that the incomes of widows on out-relief varied very widely, the lowest weekly income revealed by their researches being 2s., for a family in Liverpool, and the highest £3 1s. 6d., for a family in Merthyr Tydvil. The medium for all the Unions investigated was 14s. 6d. "This sum, therefore," they say, "may be taken to represent the medium of income throughout the kingdom for all families with dependent children in receipt of out-door relief." In other words, one half the families of widows under the Poor Law enjoyed weekly incomes for all purposes varying from 2s. to 14s. 6d.

It should be remembered that the Report of the Poor Law Commission were issued some five years ago. It is natural to suppose that their criticisms produced some result on Boards of Guardians, and that many of them will have improved their methods of administration and standards of relief in the intervening period. The Liverpool Women's Industrial Council recently undertook an inquiry in the area covered by the three Boards of Guardians which bear sway over Liverpool and its

neighbourhood, with a view to finding out what effect had been produced by the very severe strictures of the Poor Law Commissioners. The results showed that considerable improvement had indeed taken place in certain respects, mainly in methods of administration. There had also been a considerable rise in the scale of relief in one Union, and a slight rise in the two others. But the conditions are still far, very far, from satisfactory. Close inquiries were made into seventy-seven cases, taken at random from the three Unions. Two estimates were made out; one of the actual weekly income, and one of the minimum income necessary to keep the family in health. In calculating the latter a scale of living was taken considerably lower than that adopted by Mr. Rowntree in his famous book, and it was assumed that nothing was wasted and nothing spent on amusements, savings, fares, postage, or anything except the barest physical necessaries. The result showed that fifty-six of the seventy-seven cases, or 72¾ per cent., have incomes below the minimum necessary upon this extremely low scale.

The result of this grinding poverty upon the health and stamina of the widows and their children is much what might be expected. The Poor Law Commission's investigators calculated that there were in the United Kingdom approximately 51,900 mothers on out-relief, and that, assuming the thirteen Unions they studied were typical of the whole, 29,500 of them (or 51 per cent.) were in good ordinary health; 19,300 (or 34 per cent.) had no definite disease, but were weakly and ailing; and 3,600 (or 15 per cent.) were in definitely bad health. The children were pronounced to be on the whole "definitely and seriously suffering from the circumstances of their lives." "The out-relief boy of 14 is very little heavier than the average boy of 11." "The out-relief girl, of 14 and upwards, in urban unions at any rate, is usually a weedy slip, showing none of the natural rounded curves, and with the hips of a child of 12." In point of intelligence, "the proportion of children classed as definitely below the average, if not mentally defective, is astoundingly large. The poorly nourished children are usually the dull ones."*

Can anyone say that it is right or just, or in the interests of the community, that these "children of the State" should be suffering thus, merely because they have been deprived by "the act of God," of one of their parents, and because the surviving parent is unable to do the work of both? Widows under the Poor Law are an inarticulate race. They seldom complain, never write to the papers, and may not vote. They carry to an extreme that misnamed virtue of patience, which is so often a real crime against the community. But their wrongs cry aloud for redress, to those who have ears to hear them. They ought never to have been placed under the Poor Law, and certainly the so-called "Guardians of the Poor" have not as a body justified their name. It is high time that their charge should be taken from them and given to another.

Eleanor F. Rathbone.

ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE.

The formation of the League is going ahead well. The Manchester and District Federation held a most successful meeting to inaugurate their section on March 26th, when they invited me to explain the construction of the League, and the various methods of work carried out for the Leaguers. A Federation Section Leader was elected, a committee formed to carry out details, and all the members present were enrolled.

It is hoped that all the other Federations and Societies will follow Manchester's good example, and lose no time in organising their sections and groups. As one of the aims of our League is to enlist the interest and help of shop assistants in our work, I do strongly advise all societies to approach the shop assistants' unions in their respective towns. Miss Darlington has already done this in Manchester, with good results.

The uniform is now ready.

Dark green coats and skirt, 2 guineas complete, to be had from Messrs. Swan & Edgar, Piccadilly Circus, W.

Material for the same (any length cut), 2s. 6d. per yard, to be had from South Devon Serge Warehouse, Teignmouth. (Carriage paid value over 10s.)

Hats (complete with badge), 4s. 9d. Ties in the colours of the N.U., 1s. 3d. Carriers (guaranteed waterproof), 3s. 9d. Badges: ribbon, 3d.; leather, 5d. To be had from Messrs. Parnell & Co., Wilton Road and Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, S.W. (Carriage paid value over 5s.)

Societies are requested to send direct to these firms, enclosing remittance, as the above prices are strictly cash. Should the orders not exceed specified value, postage must also be remitted. Katherine M. Harley, League Leader, A.S.L.

*Appendix, Vol. 18, P.L.C. Report, p. 116.

BY-ELECTION IN EAST FIFE.

POLLING-DAY, APRIL 15th.

Dec. 1910.	Mr. Asquith (L.)	5,149
	Colonel Sprot (U.)	3,350
	Lib. majority	1,799

The Scottish Federation is not letting the grass grow under its feet in this dramatic by-election. On the morning of March 31st its organisers entered the field. The ground is by no means new to them, for, in April and May of last year, a vigorous campaign was waged for a fortnight, during which thirty-four meetings were held in every town and village, nook, and corner of the constituency, amongst the speakers being Misses Robertson, Matters, Cooke, Dr. Lumsden, and Mrs. Aldersley. The Unionist candidate, Col. Sprot, has recently taken the chair at a Suffrage meeting in Leven, and is of opinion that tax-paying women might safely be enfranchised. Till his answers to our questions are received, we must suspend judgment as to his worthiness of support. The impression left firmly on the minds of the workers in the Fife campaign last year is that the Prime Minister's constituents, though opposed to militancy, are almost to a man in favour of the principle of equal suffrage.

The county is a difficult one to work, the population being scattered in small towns, villages, and hamlets, many of them inaccessible save by car or carriage. A good supply of motor cars will be indispensable, if we are to fly the flag as ubiquitously and effectively as every Suffragist would wish to do in the constituency of the Prime Minister. Who will help with money or with personal service?

Alice Crompton.
Post Office, Leven, Fife.

[More recent information suggests a doubt as to the Conservative candidate standing for election. In the meantime, there is a possibility of a Labour candidate, B. Provost Brown, and Mr. James Larkin is also said to be going to stand. The decision of the Conservative party will not be known till after going to press.]

"WOMAN'S KINGDOM."

The Special Women's Department of the CHILDREN'S WELFARE EXHIBITION, Olympia, April 11th-30th.
Office: N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster.
Organiser: Miss V. C. C. Collum. *Treasurer:* Miss Longley.

Readers of The Common Cause are by now familiar with the main features of the attractive exhibition which has been organised by the N.U., and all members who can arrange to be in London while it is being held have no doubt determined to give it their support.

Sweated Industries.

The economic disabilities under which thousands of women labour will be illustrated by an exhibit of sweated industries arranged by the National Anti-Sweating League. Makers of shirts, nursery shoes, artificial flowers, tooth brushes, and children's underclothing will be seen at work at their trades, and a talk on Sweated Industries will be given each day, the following speakers, among others, having promised to lecture: Miss Mary Macarthur, Miss Susan Lawrence, Miss Jessie Ward, Miss Isabel Sloan, Mrs. Lowe, and Mr. J. J. Mallon.

Selling "The Common Cause."

May I appeal to all who possibly can do so, to volunteer to sell The Common Cause at the Woman's Kingdom Exhibition? I want to thank all those who are selling the paper already, and I earnestly appeal to others to give some time between April 3rd and 30th to this hard and trying, but most valuable work.

The Woman's Kingdom is the National Union's Show: let us make that quite clear and drive it home to everyone who goes to Olympia. And for that we must have plenty of sellers all the time. It will take a great many to spread over seventeen days; so please volunteer for all the time you can possibly spare, much or little. Names should be sent to Miss Gosse, at the London Office, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

A. Maude Royden.

"WOMAN'S KINGDOM" POSTERS.

Posters advertising "Woman's Kingdom" and The Common Cause have been printed in the colours of the Union, ordinary double-crown size. We want London smothered in them. Will N.U. members write to the N.U. office for them, and post them wherever they possibly can? They will be sent free. Many people have gates or railings on which a poster may be displayed. All of us have windows! We once saw a most effective advertisement suspended from a tree!

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.

Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

Treasurer's Notes.

The announcement of a by-election in Mr. Asquith's constituency is not the least sensational of the series of startling events of the past week. On accepting the office of Minister for War Mr. Asquith follows the usual precedent of offering himself to his constituents for re-election, and a by-election will take place immediately.

The responsibility of making the fullest use of this unexpected opportunity rests upon the National Union. It has been our task all over the country for many months past not to let the electors forget that the Prime Minister's pledges to women remain unfulfilled. The voters of East Fife more than any other section of the electorate must have our case against the Government put before them: once they have understood the monstrous treatment that has been accorded to the Women's Suffrage question in the present Parliament we can leave the issue in their hands.

The campaign is to be short, we must therefore concentrate our utmost efforts into the next two weeks; all our available forces, workers, speakers, and helpers must be put into the field, and to make the fullest use of this opportunity we must not be hampered for want of funds. The campaign will be organised by the Scottish Federation, and they will not spare themselves; we know how well we can rely upon their ability and devotion, and they look to the rest of the Union to back them up by sending to headquarters all the financial help that can be given. Meetings must be arranged without delay, committee rooms must be taken, and the whole campaign must be adequately equipped. More especially in an election of this character an immense amount of special literature will be required, and we appeal to our members to enable us to put into the hands of every elector a full statement of the treatment by this Government of the Women's Suffrage question.

Our members will wish the National Union to be in a position to do full justice to the present situation. At least £100 must be available at once; the money will have to be spent almost immediately, and we beg all who can help us to lose no time in sending their donations. The more we receive the better shall we be able to do our work.

Literature Report.

The Editorial Committee of the *Englishwoman* has kindly given permission to the National Union to reprint the article by Lord Lytton, "Woman Suffrage: the only Way," in pamphlet form. Readers of the March number of the *Englishwoman* will remember that it puts forward with admirable clearness our reasons for demanding a Government measure. The pamphlet is A 102, price 1d.

A leaflet by Mrs. Fawcett, dealing with our relations with the Labour Party, is also published this week. It is B 114, and the price is 9d. per 100.

A leaflet for Societies taking up the All Britain Lightning Campaign has been prepared. It has a detachable slip to be used as a membership form. A 115, price 6d. per 100.

The title of the leaflet issued by the Eastern Counties Federation in connection with the N.U.T. Conference is "Teachers and Politics," not "Politics" as stated last week.

Two leaflets published by the Women Teachers' Franchise Union—"The N.U.T. and the Woman's Suffrage Resolution" and "Equal Pay for Equal Work"—can also be ordered through the Literature Department.

Women's Suffrage Mandate Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	5,230	9	4
Mr. Robert O. Mennell (Albert Hall collection)		10	6
Mrs. J. E. Tomlinson	1	0	0
Miss E. Sturge	10	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Jameson	1	0	0
Mrs. Aubrey Dowson		10	0
	£5,243	9	10

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1913	1,495	10	8
Received, March 24th to 30th:—			
Subscriptions.			
Mr. L. C. H. Shuttleworth		5	0
Miss E. Cadmore		2	6
Mrs. Corbett	1	1	0
Miss Cicely Eeles		2	6
Mrs. J. E. Tomlinson		10	6
Mrs. W. Kirby		2	6
Subscriptions to Information Bureau.			
Miss Cecil Preston		10	6
Miss A. Crompton		10	6
Miss Mellone		10	6
Donations.			
Miss Cohn		5	0
Miss E. Cadmore		2	0
West of England Federation (towards Organiser's salary) ...	45	0	0
Donations to Education Campaign.			
Mrs. M. L. Scurfield	1	1	0
Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Schuster	3	3	0
Mr. Morton H. Sands	3	3	0
Affiliation Fees.			
Bangor W.S.S.	1	17	6
Winsford W.S.S		5	0
Salisbury W.S.S.	1	5	0
West Dorset W.S.S.		12	6
Hexham W.S.S.	1	5	0
Stockport W.S.S.		10	6
Sowerby Bridge W.S.S.		8	6
Yeovil W.S.S.		12	6
Upper Rhondda W.S.S.		5	0
Lowestoft W.S.S.		17	6
Montrose W.S.S.		12	6
Helmsdale W.S.S.		5	0
Mansfield W.S.S.		10	6
North Berwick W.S.S.		15	9
Buxton W.S.S.		15	0
North-West Wilts W.S.S.		10	0
Annfield Plain W.S.S.		9	0
Oxford Women Students' Society for W.S.	5	2	0
Norwich W.S.S. (additional)		12	6
South-East Essex W.S.S.		7	3
Bath W.S.S.	1	17	6
Keynsham W.S.S.		5	0
Accrington W.S.S.	1	0	0
Crowborough W.S.S.		6	3
Henley W.S.S.		5	9
West Herts W.S.S.	1	19	5
Keswick W.S.S.	2	10	0
Hetton W.S.S.		5	0
Lymington W.S.S.		6	9
Oundle and District W.S.S.		6	9
Redditch W.S.S.		13	3
Taunton W.S.S.		13	3
Tonbridge W.S.S.	1	1	0
Lichfield W.S.S. (1st instalment)		4	0
Bridgwater W.S.S.		5	0
Woodford W.S.S.		5	3
West Hartlepool W.S.S.	1	1	3
Darlington W.S.S.	2	11	0
	£1,586	13	5

NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS.

Suffrage Demonstration in Lowestoft.

Over 2,200 delegates have been appointed to attend the Forty-fifth Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers which is to be held during Easter week at Lowestoft. There will be the customary receptions, additional meetings, and festivities during the Conference week, and a big public meeting in support of Women's Suffrage is being organised by the National Union, to be held at the Marina Theatre, on Tuesday, April 14th, at 3 p.m. The speakers will be Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Rackham, and Miss Muriel Matters. Before the meeting there will be a procession through the town, starting at 1.30 p.m. from the Royal Plain.

The Hon. Sec. of the Lowestoft Society has had offers of help from different parts of the country in response to her appeal in The Common Cause, but more assistance is badly needed. She writes:—

"This morning I received a letter from Sir Victor Horsley, offering to help in open-air speaking and canvassing for the meeting in the theatre. This is the spirit of true comradeship that is carrying us on to victory. But many more helpers are needed, as many of our own members will be so fully occupied in ministering to the needs of visitors, &c. We shall be glad to have the banners of as many Societies as possible carried in the procession."

List of Societies and Federations in the N.U.W.S.S.

Federations, Hon. Secretaries and Key to Letters.

S **Scottish.**—Miss Elsie Inglis, M.B., C.M. *Office:* 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. *Organising Sec.:* Miss Alice Crompton. *Area.*—All Scotland. 63 Societies.

C. **North Eastern.**—Miss Hardcastle, 3, Osborne Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne. *Organising Sec.:* Miss Gordon. *Area.*—All Northumberland and Durham. 26 Societies

D. **North Western.**—*Acting pro tem.*, Miss Millington, c/o N.U.W.S.S., 14, Gt. Smith St., Westminster, S.W. *Area.*—All Westmoreland, Cumberland, and in Lancs. the Divs. of North Lonsdale and Lancaster, and the Borough of Barrow. 21 Societies.

E. **North and East Ridings of Yorkshire.**—*Pro tem.*, Mrs. Cross, 2, Driffield Terrace, The Mount, York. *Area.*—N. and E. Ridings, and in Lincs., the Divs. of Brigg, Gt. Grimsby, and Louth. 15 Societies.

F. **West Riding of Yorkshire.**—The Secretary, Suffrage Office, 35, Park Square, Leeds. *Area.*—W. Riding, and Todmorden. 20 Societies.

G. **Manchester and District.**—The Secretary: Grosvenor Chambers, 16, Deansgate, Manchester. *Area.*—E. Lancs, the High Peak Div. of Derbyshire, all Cheshire (with the exception of the Wirral Div. and the Eddisbury Div. of Chester) and Todmorden in W. Riding. 37 Societies.

H. **West Lancs., West Cheshire, and N. Wales.**—Miss Jessie Beavan, 12, Ullet Road, Liverpool. *Area.*—West Lancs., the Wirral and Eddisbury Divs. of Cheshire, and in N. Wales the Counties of Anglesey, Denbigh, Flint, Merioneth, Montgomery, Carnarvon. 27 Societies.

I **Midlands (East).**—Miss Maud Dowson, Sulney Fields, Upper Broughton, Melton Mowbray. *Area.*—The Counties of Notts, Derby (with the exception of the High Peak Div.), Leicester, Rutland, Northants, and in Lincs. the following Divs.—Lincoln, Grantham, Gainsboro', Horncastle, Sleaford, Stamford and the Burton Div. in Staffordshire. 19 Societies.

J. **Midlands (West).**—*Hon. Sec.:* Miss M. M. Williams, 19, Droitwich Road, Worcester. *Area.*—Worcestershire (with the exception of the constituencies of N. Worcestershire, Dudley, and that part of E. Worcestershire which lies within the area of Great Birmingham), Herefordshire, and Shropshire. 17 Societies.

K. **Central Counties.**—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Clinton Chance, 12, Arthur Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. *Area.*—Warwickshire, Staffordshire (with the exception of the Burton-on-Trent Div.), the constituencies of Dudley, N. Worcestershire, and that part of E. Worcestershire which lies within the area of Greater Birmingham. 18 Societies.

L. **Eastern Counties.**—Mrs. Vulliamy, Maitland House, Newnham, Cambridge *Area.*—Cambs., Essex (with the exception of Romford and Walthamstow Divs.), Herts (with the exception of the Watford Div.), Hunts, Norfolk, Suffolk and the Spalding Div. of Lincs., including the Borough of Boston. 41 Societies.

M. **South Wales and Monmouthshire.**—Miss B. Foxley, M.A., Aberdare Hall, Cardiff. *Area.*—The Counties of Glamorgan, Brecon, Radnor, Carmarthen, Cardigan, and Pembroke in Wales, and Monmouth in England. 20 Societies.

N. **West of England.**—Miss Tanner, St. Ulrich, Downs Park West, Bristol. *Area.*—The Counties of Somerset, Gloucester, and Wilts. 26 Societies.

O. **Oxon, Berks, and Bucks.**—*Pro. tem.*, Mrs. F. J. K. Cross, Aston Tirrold Manor, Wallingford. *Area.*—The Counties of Oxford, Berks, Bedford, and Bucks, and the Watford Div. of Herts and S. Northants. 27 Societies.

P. **South-Western.**—Miss Mathieson, M.A., Otterbourne, Budleigh Salterton. *Area.*—The Counties of Devon and Cornwall. 25 Societies.

Q. **Surrey, Sussex and Hants.**—Miss M. O'Shea, The Cottage, Cosham, Hants. Asst. Miss M. E. Verrall, The Lydd, West Hoathly, Sussex. *Area.*—The Counties of Surrey, Sussex and Hants, and the Isle of Wight. 45 Societies

R. **Kentish.**—*Pro. tem.*, Miss Griffith Jones, 161, Ashley Gardens, S.W. *Area.*—Kent. 15 Societies.

S. Societies outside Federation Areas, 7.

The London Society.—Miss Phillippa Strachey, 58, Victoria Street Number of Branches, 62.

Total, **479.**

Societies.

G. **Accrington.**—Miss Constance Gertrude Bury, 14, Devonshire Street, Accrington.

F. **Ackworth.**—Miss Andrews, Ackworth School, Ackworth, near Pontefract.

L. **Aldeburgh.**—Mrs. Sharp, Whitebays, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

Q. **Aldershot.**—Mrs. Kemp, The Croft, Aldershot.

G. **Altrincham.**—Miss M. M. Arnold, Highbury, Hale, Cheshire. *Org. Sec.:* Mrs. Hawkins, 23a, Stamford New Road, Altrincham.

D. **Ambleside and District.**—Charles G. Boullen, Esq., Roselands, Ambleside.

D. **Appleby.**—Mrs. Baker, Battlebarrow, Appleby. *Branch:* Murton-cum-Hilton.

D. **Arlecdon and Frizingdon.**—Miss Annie Lawrence, 17, Parks Road, Arlecdon, Cockermouth, Cumberland.

O. **Ascot.**—*Hon. Sec.:* Miss Violet Hanbury, Holmwood Lodge, Ascot.

R. **Ashford.**—Miss Clemetson, 2, Castle Street, Ashford, Kent.

Ashton-under-Lyne.—Miss R. Dyson, Waterloo, Ashton-under-Lyne.

G. **Bacup.**—Miss Annie G. Lord, 19, Industrial Street, Bacup, Lancs.

O. **Banbury.**—Mrs. Penrose, 32, West Bar, Banbury.

F. **Barnsley.**—Miss Celia Wray, Fairfield House, Barnsley.

P **Barnstaple.**—*Secretary:* Miss S. M. Adams, Rose Bank Barnstaple.

D. **Barrow-in-Furness.**—*Joint Secretaries:* Miss Watson, 28, Lincoln Street, Barrow-in-Furness, and Miss A. Shaw, 12, West View Road, Barrow-in-Furness.

Q. **Basingstoke.**—Miss Doman, Bramley Cottage, Winchester Road, Basingstoke, and Miss Cicely Chadwick, Queen's School, Basingstoke.

N. **Bath.**—*Pro tem.*, Mrs. Blackstone, 10, Laura Place, Bath.

O. **Beaconsfield and District.**—Mrs. Dixon Davies, Hitheridge, Beaconsfield.

O. **Bedford.**—Miss Stacy, M.B., 34, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

O. **Berkhamsted.**—Mrs. Stevenson, Glanmor, Doctors Commons Road, Berkhamsted

O. **Berks (North).**—Miss Nora Marshall, 1, Castle Villas, Wallingford.

Q. **Bexhill.**—Miss Norton, Dalhousie, Buckhurst Road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

P. **Bideford.**—Mrs. Lightbody, Hazlehurst, Bideford.

O. **Biggleswade.**—Mrs. Aggiss, Leigham, Drove Road, Biggleswade.

F. **Bingley.**—Miss Moulden, 100, Main Street, Bingley.

H. **Birkenhead and District.**—Miss A. Wyse, c/o Mrs. Urquhart, 23, Balfour Road, Oxton, Birkenhead.

K. **Birmingham.**—Mrs. Ring, 20, Easy Row, Birmingham.

C. **Bishop Auckland.**—Mrs. Thompson, The Manse, Cockton Hill, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham.

G. **Blackburn.**—Miss Frances Bell, 21, Oozebooth Terrace, Blackburn.

C. **Blackhill and Consett.**—Mrs. Jameson, 32, Roger Street, Blackhill.

H. **Blackpool and Fylde.**—Mrs. Bamford Tomlinson, 16, Clevedon Road, Blackpool. *Branch:* Lytham.

G. **Bolton.**—Miss Bridson, Bridge House, Bolton.

L. **Boston.**—Miss M. A. Cheavin, Sydney House, Spilsby Road, Boston.

S. **Bournemouth.**—*Hon. General Sec.:* Mrs. Lyon, Shalimar, Wilderton Road, Branksome Park, Bournemouth. *Hon. Financial and Org. Sec.:* Mrs. Laney, *Offices*, Trinity Chambers, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.

O. **Bracknell.**—Miss F. G. Bradford, Fir Cottage, Bracknell, Berks.

F **Bradford.**—Mrs. James Riley, 2, Hollings Mount, Bradford. *All letters to:* Miss Miller, *Office*, 5, Eldon Place, Bradford.

L. **Braintree.**—Miss M. R. Courtauld, Evegate, Bocking, Braintree, Essex.

G. **Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme.**—Miss G. M. Greenwood, Oak Croft, Cheadle Hulme.

L. **Brentwood.**—*Hon. Sec.:* Miss Thompson, Warwick House, Warley Mount, Brentwood, Essex.

J. **Bridgnorth.**—Mrs. Howard Pearce, Tower House, Bridgnorth, Salop.

E. **Bridlington.**—*Pro tem.*, Miss F. Woodcock, 80, St. John's Street, Bridlington.

N. **Bridgwater.**—Mrs. Alice Corder, Silver Birch, Northfield, Bridgwater.

Q. **Brighton.**—Miss F. de G. Merrifield, 14, Clifton Terrace, Brighton.

N. **Bristol.**—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, Drayton, Beaufort Road, Clifton, Bristol. *Office*, 40, Park Street, Bristol.

N. **Bristol (East).**—Mrs. Bottomley, 606, Stapleton Road, Eastville, Bristol.

Q. **Brockham and Betchworth.**—*Pro tem.*, Miss Kensitt, Brockham, Betchworth.

J. **Bromsgrove and District.**—Mrs. A. D. Russon, Battlefield, Bromsgrove.

O. **Buckingham.**—

O. **Bucks (Mid).**—Miss S. R. Courtauld, Bocken, Great Missenden, Bucks.

P. **Budleigh Salterton.**—Miss Baker, Eryl Mor, Budleigh Salterton.

N. **Burnham.**—Miss M. A. Greswell, The Colony, Burnham, Somerset.

G. **Burnley.**—Miss Lee, Thornhill, Burnley. *Assist. Sec.:* Miss Hitchin, 3, Ormerod Street, Burnley.

I **Burton-on-Trent.**—Miss M. Nicolls, 10, Frederick Street, Burton-on-Trent.

L. **Bury St. Edmunds.**—Miss M. Wakefield, 79, Risbygate Street, Bury St. Edmunds.

G. **Buxton.**—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Vickery, Filleigh, Temple Road, Buxton.

Q **Buxted.**—Miss A A Cheape, Great Streele Farm, Framfield, Sussex

Q. **Camberley and District.**—Miss Evelyn Atkinson, Portesbery Hill, Camberley.

L. **Cambridge.**—Mrs. Ward, 6, Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge.

L. **Cambs. (East).**—Miss Colson, 3 ,Grange Terrace, Grange Road, Cambridge.

L **Cambs. (West).**—Miss N. M. Gray, 9, Station Road, Cambridge.

L. **Cambridge University.**—*Hon. Sec.:* Miss Broadley, Girton College, Cambridge. *Hon. Sec.:* Miss E. A. Carter, Newnham College, Cambridge. *Branches:* Girton College, Newnham College, Old Students.

R. **Canterbury.**—Mrs. Harold Wacher, 72, St. Dunstans, Canterbury.

D. **Carlisle.**—Miss Bardsley, Stanwix, Carlisle, and Mrs. Campbell, 22, Warwick Square, Carlisle. *Branch:* Wigton.

D **Carnforth.**—Miss Edith Willis, Ormonde House, Carnforth.

G. **Cheadle.**—*Hon Sec.: Pro. tem.*, Mrs. Parry, 277, Stockport Road, Cheadle Heath.

L. **Chelmsford.**—Miss Richenda Christy, Orchards, Broomfield, Chelmsford.

N. **Cheltenham.**—Miss Mills, Lowmandale, Leckhampton, Cheltenham.

H. **Chester.**—Miss Annie Adams, Shirley House, Liverpool Road, Chester.

I **Chesterfield.**—*Pro tem.*, Miss Jessie Smith, Walton Rise, Chesterfield.

C. **Chester-le-Street.**—Miss Brook, 12, Avondale Terrace, Chester-le-Street.

H. **Chorley.**—Miss Stone, Adeath House, Ashfield Road, Chorley.

J. **Church Stretton.**—Miss Barnett, Coney Cottage, Church Stretton.

N. **Cinderford.**—Miss Stella Matthews, M.A., Higher Elementary School, Cinderford.

N. **Cirencester.**—Miss Grace Hadow, Foss Lodge, Cirencester.

N. **Clevedon.**—Miss Clayton, 2, Hallam Road, Clevedon, Somerset.

G. **Clitheroe.**—Mrs. Ward, 24, Garden Street, Nelson.

D. **Cockermouth.**—Miss Rachel Irwin, Shatton Hall, Nr. Cockermouth, Cumberland.

L **Colchester and District.**—Miss Sweetlove, Great Horkesley, Colchester.

J. **Colwall.**—Miss Julia Holland, Brand Lodge, Upper Colwall, Malvern.

G. **Congleton.**—Miss L. Bennett, Marsh House, Astbury, Congleton.

D **Coniston.**—Miss Mary Dixon, Latham House, The Square, Broughton-in-Furness.

K. **Coventry.**—Miss Rogers, 26, Trinity Church Yard, Coventry.

G. **Crewe.**—Mrs. Powell, 117, Walthall Street, Crewe.

I. **Crick.**—Mrs. Roberts, Crick Rectory, Rugby.

L. **Cromer.**—*Hon. Sec.:* Miss Ethel Rust, The Grey House, Cromer.

Q. **Crondall, Crookham and Ewshott.**—Miss S. Clark, The Hurst, Church, Crookham, Hants.

Q. **Crowborough.**—*Pro tem.*, Miss E. M. F. Wren, Grazeley, Crowborough

O. **Crowthorne.**—Miss Ethel Fox, Woodleigh, Crowthorne, Berks.

Q. **Croydon.**—Miss W. M. Hudson, 34, Birdhurst Road, Croydon. *Office:* 34, The Arcade, High Street, Croydon.

C. **Darlington and District.**—Miss Woodhead, The Ing, Southend Avenue, Darlington.

P. **Dartmouth.**—Miss O'Regan, Greenheys, Kingswear.

G. **Darwen.**—*Pro tem.* Mrs. E. Jepson, 15, Cleveland Terrace, Darwen.

R. **Deal and Walmer.**—Miss Attwell, Victoria House, Victoria Parade, Deal.

I. **Derby.**—*Pro tem.* Mrs. Sowter, Field House, Duffield, near Derby.

F. **Dewsbury.**—Misses Law and Pickersgill, 36, Albert Terrace, Dewsbury.

L. **Diss and District.**—Mrs. Flowerdew, Billingford Hall, Scole, Norfolk.

F. **Doncaster.**—

O. **Dorchester (Oxon.).**—*Pro tem.*, Mrs. Soper, Stadhampton, Wallingford.

Q. **Dorking, Leith Hill and District.**—Miss Rawlings, Rose Hill, Dorking.

S. **Dorset (West).**—Miss Fenwick, Down House Farm, Bridport.

E. **Driffield.**—Mrs. Wm. Blakeston, Aspen House, Beverley Road, Driffield.

K. **Dudley.**—Mrs. Powell, St. John's Vicarage, Dudley.

O. **Dunstable and Houghton Regis.**—Mrs. Garrett, Helios, Dunstable, Beds.

C. **Durham**—Mrs. Potts, 4, Church Street, Durham.

Q. **Eastbourne.**—Miss Peacey, Rydal Mount, St. John's Road, Eastbourne.

Q. **East Grinstead.**—Mrs. Corbett, Woodgate, Danehill, Sussex.

Q. **Eastleigh.**—*Hon. Sec.:* Miss Rowland, B.A., 294, Southampton Road, Eastleigh.

G. **Eccles.**—Miss Thirza Potts, M.A., 14, Monton Avenue, Monton, Eccles

Q. **Egham and District.**—Miss A .M. Leake, South Tower, Royal Holloway College, Englefield Green S.O., Surrey.

L. **Essex (North and East).**—Miss Courtauld, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Essex.

J **Evesham** — Mrs. Preston, Offenham Vicarage, Evesham.

P. **Exeter.**—Mrs. Fletcher, 48, Polsloe Road, Exeter.

P. **Exmouth.**—Miss Joan Retallack, Chypraze, Exmouth.

Eye and District.—Rev. H Drake, Braisworth Rectory, Eye, Suffolk.

P. **Falmouth.**—Miss Naomi Bassett Fox, Grove Hill, Falmouth.

Q. **Farnham and District.**—Miss Milton, Fernlea, Lower Bourne, Farnham.

G. **Farnworth.**—Mrs. Affleck, Melbourne House, Kearsley, Farnworth S.O.

R **Faversham.**—Mrs. Hargrave, "The Studio," 82, Preston Street, Faversham.

L. **Felixstowe, Walton and District.**—Miss Edith Place, 24, Quilter Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

E. **Filey.**—Miss Hankes, 14, Southdene, Filey, Yorks.

Q. **Fleet.**—Mrs. Kayser, The Garth, Fleet, Hants.

R. **Folkestone and Hythe.**—*Pro tem.*, Miss Bence, c/o Mrs. Napier Sturt, The Priory, Folkestone, and Mrs. Henry Kingsley, 7, The Bayle, Folkestone.

H. **Frodsham and Eddisbury.**—Miss F. N. Burgess, Beaconhurst, Frodsham, Cheshire.

I. **Gainsborough.**—Miss D. Rayner, Oakville, Morton Terrace, Gainsborough, Lincs.

C. **Gateshead-on-Tyne.**—Mrs. Hutchinson, 23, Oxford Terrace, Gateshead.

O. **Gerrard's Cross.**—Mrs. Barnard Davis, Brant Fell, The Ridgeway, Gerrard's Cross.

N. **Gloucester.**—Miss F. E. Walrond, Cathedral House, Gloucester.

Q. **Godalming.**—Miss T. W Powell, and Miss Burnett, both of Munstead Rough, Godalming.

F. **Goole.**—Mrs. Parker, Fountayne Street, Goole.

C. **Gosforth and Benton.**—Miss Risely, Westfield House, Westfield Drive, Gosforth.

I. **Grantham.**—Miss M. A. Medlock, 3, Church Trees, Grantham.

L. **Great Yarmouth.**—Miss Teasdel, Martelsham, Southtown, Great Yarmouth.

E. **Grimsby.**—Mrs. C. Kitching, Newlands, Park Avenue, Grimsby.

Q. **Guildford and District.**—Miss Seymour, Enismore, Guildford. *Branch:* Cranleigh.

L. **Harpenden.**—Mrs. Oakeshott, Chelsfield, Clarence Road, Harpenden

F. **Harrogate.**—Mrs. F. Thomas 19, Beech Grove, Harrogate.

C. **Hartlepool.**—Miss Margaret B. Hunter, 1, Friars Terrace, Hartlepool, Co. Durham.

L. **Harwich and District.**—Miss McCarthy, 1, Alexandra Road, Dovercourt, Essex, and Mr. Beck, 33, Cliff Road, Dovercourt, Essex.

Q. **Haslemere and District.**—Mrs. Watkins, Ridgeways, Hindhead, Haslemere.

G. **Haslingden.**—Mrs. Berry, Carrs, Haslingden.

Q. **Hastings, St. Leonards and East Sussex.**—Miss A. Kate Rance, 21, Boscobel Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.
D. **Hawkshead.**—
Q. **Heathfield and District.**—Mrs. Cunliffe, Little London, Horeham Road, E. Sussex.
O. **Henley and District.**—Mrs. Blair, Roselawn, Shiplake, Oxon.
J. **Hereford.**—Mrs. Beltington, Westwood, Hampton Park, Hereford.
Pro. tem. Branch: Leominster.
R. **Herne Bay.**—Mrs. Cowper Field, "Wivenhoe," Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent.
L. **Herts. (East).**—Miss L. Puller, Youngsbury, Ware.
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G. **Wigan and District.**—Mrs. Fairhurst, Knowles Villa, Warrington Road, Pemberton, Wigan.
G. **Wilmslow, Styal, and Alderley Edge.**—*Hon. Sec.*, Miss E. M. Greg, Lode Hill, Styal, Cheshire.
N. **Wilts. (North-West).**—Miss A. Tennant, LL.A., The Nutshell, Corsham, Wilts.
N. **Wilts. (South).**—Mrs. Peart, Fovant, Salisbury.
Q. **Winchester.**—Miss A. E. Dumbleton, Wyke Lodge, Bereweeke Road, Winchester.
N. **Winchcombe and District.**—Mrs. Springfield, The Bays, Winchcombe, Glos., and Miss Jordan, 8, Royal Parade, Cheltenham.
N. **Winscombe.**—Mrs. Tanner, Fordlynch, Winscombe, Somerset.
G. **Winsford.**—Miss Mary Walsh, The Hollies, Winsford, Cheshire.
O. **Woburn Sands.**—Miss H. M. Brown, Daneswood, Woburn Sands.
Q. **Woking.**—Miss Davies Colley, Briarwood, Woking.
O. **Wokingham.**—Miss Violet Eustace, Montague House, Wokingham, Berks.
K. **Wolverhampton.**—Mrs. F. D. Taylor, 107, Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton.
L. **Woodbridge.**—Mrs. Brooke Edwards, Singli, Cumberland Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
J. **Worcester.**—Miss J. H. House, 36, Victoria Road, Worcester.
D. **Workington and District.**—Mrs. Oldfield, Windy Nook, Craig Road, Workington, and Mrs. Curry, 36, Mason Street, Workington.
Q **Worthing.**—Miss Helen Wright, *Office*, 1, Warwick Street, Worthing; and Miss Bowen.
N. **Yeovil.**—*Hon. Sec.:* Miss W. Matthews, The Avenue, Yeovil.
E. **York.**—Mrs. G. K. Meyer, *Office*, 10, Museum Street, York.

B.—Scotland.

Aberdeen.—Miss Grant Smith, Balvenie, Cults, Aberdeenshire. *Office:* 214, Union Street, Aberdeen.
Abernethy.—Miss Williamson, Ochil View, Abernethy, Perthshire.
Alloa.—Mrs. Andrew, 20, Fenton Street, Alloa Scotland.
Alva.—Miss Mary J. Lodge, Strude Cottage, Alva, Clackmannanshire.
Ardrossan and Saltcoats.—Mrs. Kerr, 38, Sydney Street, Saltcoats, Ayrshire.
Auchterarder.—Miss Eadie, Lona, Auchterarder.
Ayr and Troon.—Mrs. Harvey, B.A., Woodview, Troon.
Beauly.—Miss A. Munro, The School, Beauly, Inverness-shire.
Berwickshire.—Mrs. Hope, Sunwick, Berwick-on-Tweed.
Blairmore.—Mrs. Leggat, Duart Tower, Blairmore, Argyllshire.
Brechin.—Miss Jeannie Duncan, 81, Southesk Street, Brechin, N.B.
Bridge of Weir.—Mrs. J J. Moffat, 2, St. George's Terrace, Bridge of Weir.
Brora.—Miss Torrance, Shoemaker Lane, Brora, Sutherland.
Castle Douglas.—Mrs. Patrick Gifford, The Cottage, Castle Douglas, N.B.
Crieff.—Miss Kinghorn, Mayfield, Crieff.
Cupar.—Miss Davidson, Bonvil, Cupar, Fife.
Dingwall.—Miss Ledingham, 70a, High Street, Dingwall.
Dollar.—Miss Marjorie Kent, Drummond Cottage, Dollar, N.B.
Dornoch.—Miss Murray, Victoria Cottage, Sutherland Road, Dornoch, Sutherland.
Dunbar.—Miss F Melise Aspinwall, 4, Bowmont Terrace, Dunbar
Dundee.—Miss Henderson. *Office:* 12, Meadowside, Dundee. *Branch* Carnoustie.
Dunfermline.—Mrs. Mackinnon, 14, Park Terrace, Dunfermline.
Edinburgh.—Miss K. M. Loudon. *Org. Sec.:* Miss Lisa Gordon. *Office:* 40, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.
Elgin and Lossiemouth.—Miss MacPherson, The Studio, 23, High Street, Elgin, and Miss Forsyth, Dalquharran, Lossiemouth
Falkirk.—Mrs. Robb, Laurieston Manse, Falkirk.
Fortrose.—Mrs. S. J. Haldane, St. Catherine's, Fortrose.
Galashiels. — Miss Smith, Sunnybrae, Magdala Terrace, Galashiels.
Glasgow.—Miss Lindsay. *Office:* 202, Hope Street, Glasgow.
Glenfarg.—Miss Jessie Seaton, Green Bank, Glenfarg.
Golspie.—*Pro tem.*, Miss McIntosh, Woodside, Lairg, Sutherland.
Branch: Lairg.
Gourock.—Miss Johnston, 1, Ashburn Gardens, Gourock.
Greenock.—Mrs. Laurie, Red House, 38, Ardgowan Street, Greenock.
Haddington.—Mrs. Kerr, Barney Mains, Haddington, N.B.
Hawick.—Miss Williamson, 18, Buccleuch Street, Hawick.
Helmsdale.—Miss MacIntyre, Sutherland Street, Helmsdale.
Innerleithen.—Miss A. Ballantyne, Beechwood, Innerleithen, N.B.
Inverness.—Mrs. James Fraser, 19, Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness.
John o' Groats.—Miss B. S. Alexander, 34, Princes Street, Thurso.
Kelso.—Mrs. Fleming, Abbey Row, Kelso.
Kilmalcolm.—Mrs. Wood, Barclaven, Kilmalcolm, Renfrewshire.
Kilmarnock.—Mrs. Hay, Leslie Lodge, Dundonald Road, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire.
Kirkcaldy Burghs.—Mrs. Honeyman, Sauchendene, Kirkcaldy.
Kirkcudbright and District.—Miss Charlotte Banks, 18, St. Mary Street, Kirkcudbright.
Largs.—Miss Margaret Paton, Mansfield, Largs, Ayrshire.
Lenzie.—Miss M. H. Kerr, Clunaline, Lenzie.
Leven.—Mrs. Galloway, Kinellan, Leven.
Melrose.—Miss Riddell, The Cloisters, Melrose, N.B.
Montrose.—Miss Hossack, 89, Bridge Street, Montrose.
Nairn.—Miss Blane, *pro tem.*, 39, Bloomfield Terrace, S.W.
North Berwick.—Lady Schäfer, Marly Knowle, North Berwick.
Oban.—Miss Ada Marsden, St. John's House, Oban.
Orcadian.—Mrs. Cursiter, Daisybank, Kirkwall, Orkney.
Paisley.—Miss Risk, 36, Whitehaugh Drive, Paisley.
Peebles.—Mrs. W. E. Thorburn, Hay Lodge, Peebles.
Perth.—Mrs. Slater, West Manse, Scone
Branches: Bridge of Earn, Scone, Alyth, and Cupar Angus.
St. Andrews.—Mrs. Scott, St. Regulus, St. Andrews.
Branches Crail, Anstruther, and Newburgh.
Selkirk.—Mrs. Connochie, Park House, Selkirk.
Shetland.—Miss Jamieson, Twagios, Lerwick, Shetland.
Stranraer.—Dr. Mary Pirret, Fernlea, Stranraer, Wigtownshire.
Stirlingshire.—Mrs. Alec Morrison, Roselea, Bridge of Allan.
Tain.—Miss D. Stewart, Balanlock, Tain, Ross-shire.
Branches: Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, Portmahomack.
Tayside.—Miss Maxwell, Kinbank, Wormit-on-Tay.
Wick.—Miss Stephen, 6, Coach Road, Wick.

Wales.

M. **Aberdare and District.**—Mrs. Pritchard, Corinthia, Villa, Elm Grove, Aberdare.
M. **Abergavenny.** — Miss Gardner, "Hawkhurst," Western Road, Abergavenny.
M. **Aberystwyth.**—Miss Marles Thomas, Somerville, South Terrace, Aberystwyth.
H. **Bangor.**—*Hon. Org. Sec.:* Mrs. C. Price White, Rockleigh, Bangor. *Hon. Sec.:* Miss Nora Lewis, Belmont, Bangor.
Branch: Llanfairfechan.
M. **Brecon and District.**—Miss Elizabeth Jane Edwards, 2, Camden Villas, Brecon.
M. **Cardiff and District.**—Miss Howell, 132, Queen Street, Cardiff
Branch: Penarth.
M. **Carmarthen.**—Miss B. A. Holme, Kai-ora, Myrddin Crescent, Carmarthen.
H. **Carnarvon.**—Mrs. E. P. Evans, Roman Villa, Carnarvon; and Miss Ryle Davies, Cartrefle, Segontium Road South, Carnarvon.
Branch: Pen-y-groes.
Chepstow.—Miss Edith Smith, 28a, High Street, Chepstow.
H. **Colwyn Bay.**—Miss M Spencer, Farlands, Penrhyn Bay, near Llandudno.
H. **Criccieth.**—Mrs. Walter Jones, Emu, Criccieth.
H. **Dolgelly.**—Mrs. John Jones, Wenallt, Springfield Street, Dolgelly, and Miss Gertrude Lewis, Dr Williams' School, Dolgelly
M. **Ebbw Vale.**—Miss A. R. Johns, Caegwyn, Ebbw Vale.
M. **Farmers District.**—Miss Bessie Williams, Bedwellty, Farmers, Llamwrda, R.S.O., Carmarthen.
M. **Kidwelly and Ferryside.**—Miss E. M. Meredith, "Brynhyfryd," Kidwelly, S. Wales.
M. **Lampeter.**—Miss Minnie C. Davies, Velindre House, Lampeter.
H. **Llandudno.**—Miss Wright, Preswylfa, Abbey Road, Llandudno.
M. **Llanelly.**—Miss Smith, 9, Mina Street, Llanelly.
M. **Llangollen.**—Miss B. Stewart, Oaklands, Llangollen.
M. **Merionethshire.**—Mrs. Francis Lewis, Balkan Hill, Aberdovey.
M. **Merthyr and District.**—Mrs. M J. Williams, 1, Lewis Terrace, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil.
M. **Neath, Briton Ferry, and District.**—Mrs. Tonner, 22, Rugby Avenue, Neath.
H. **Penmaenmawr.**—Miss A. M. Harker, Glan Afon, Penmaenmawr, and Mrs. Philip Williams, Cynlas, Penmaenmawr.
M. **Pontypool and District.**—Miss Gwladys M. Bailey, The Grove, Pontnewynydd, near Pontypool, and Miss Muriel Mosely, Ty-Gwyn, Pontnewynydd.
H. **Pwllheli.**—Miss Moody, Penlam Street, Pwllheli.

H. **Rhyl and District.**—Mrs. Williams, The Studio, High Street, Rhyl.
L. **Swansea.**—Miss Aaron Thomas, Dolgoy, West Cross, Glam., and Mrs. Moore, 14, Cwmdonkin Terrace, Swansea.
L. **Upper Rhondda.**—Miss Ridley, The Schools, Blaen-Rhondda.
H. **Wrexham.**—Miss Price, 76, Beechley Road, Wrexham.

India.

R. **Mussoorie.**—Miss Weatherley, "The Deodara," Mussoorie, India

News from the Societies and Federations.

London Society.

WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL RECEPTIONS.—The short spring series of weekly public receptions has proved very successful, speeches on the principles of Woman Suffrage and on the N.U.W.S.S. policy by leading law-abiding Suffragists being made on each occasion, and followed by free discussion in which any member of the audience may take part. Among the speakers have been Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Miss Marshall, Mrs. Horniman, Mr. A. F. Whyte, M.P., Sir William Chance, Bart., &c. The last reception of the series on April 3rd will be addressed by Miss Courtney, Miss I. O. Ford, and Sir Lawrence Gomme.

BALHAM.—Large open-air meeting was held on March 13th at the corner of Ormeley Road, Balham High Road. Speaker, Miss Helen Walshe—Chair, Miss Shore. Ten "Friends" were enrolled.

BARNES.—Mrs. Lionel Kenndy very kindly gave a drawing-room meeting followed by tea, at Althorp House on March 18th. Miss Attwell took the Chair and Mrs. Hamilton made an interesting speech. About sixty people were present, nine new members and several "Friends" were enrolled. Nineteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold

BATTERSEA.—On March 6th Miss Emily Hill addressed the Battersea Woman's Co-operative Society. Sixteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold and nine "Friends" enrolled.

CHELSEA.—A crowded and interesting debate was held on March 18th by kind permission of Miss Lily Anbrolins, at 16, Cadogan Square. For the Suffrage, Mrs. Rackham (P.L.G.); Against, Mrs. Harold Norris, who took the place of Mrs. Wentworth Stanley, who was prevented by indisposition from being present. Mr. Frank Marshall took the Chair. There was no resolution, but the feeling of the meeting was predominatingly in favour of the Suffragists.

CHISWICK AND BEDFORD PARK.—A successful jumble sale was held on March 23rd, by kind permission of Mr. Smith at the Fraser Street Mission Hall, Devonshire Road, Chiswick, at which we realised £6 17s. 6d. This happy result was the outcome of Mrs. Philip's capable and energetic management, who succeeded in getting from our members a goodly supply of garments and household effects, which were much appreciated by our customers.

CLAPHAM.—A successful drawing-room meeting was held at 22, North Side, Clapham Common, on March 20th, by kind permission of Mrs. Kettle. The advertised speaker, Miss Rosamond Smith, being unable to appear through illness, her place was taken by Miss Agnes Dawson, whose speech on the "State Child," met with much appreciation. The Chair was taken by Mr. Ernest Hutton, who gave an interesting account of the work done in New Zealand, since women had the vote. Miss Hoblyn spoke also on the local work done by the London Society, and appealed for more help among the members. Six copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and three new members were enrolled, and also promises to sell THE COMMON CAUSE were made.

CROUCH END.—A successful public meeting was held on March 27th at the Christchurch Parish Hall, Edison Road, Mr. R. F. Cholmeley in the Chair. Speakers, Mrs. Oliver Strachey and Mr. W. H. Warren. A resolution calling for a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women, was passed with two dissentients. Thirty "Friends" were enrolled, and three members joined, with promises of more. The collection amounted to £2 1s. 7d.

DULWICH.—On March 19th Mrs. and Miss Jebens gave a Suffrage tea at Danbeck, Dulwich Village, at which Mrs. Garrett Jones spoke and Miss Jebens took the Chair. One new member joined and nine copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

EALING.—A successful meeting was held at the Victoria Hall, Ealing, on March 23rd, the Chair being taken at 8.15 by the Rev. W. Templeton King, B.D. The speakers were the Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Oliver Strachey. In spite of very bad weather there was an excellent attendance and great interest was shown. A gratifying result of the meeting was the addition of fifty-two new "Friends" and fifteen new members to the local branch. The following resolution was passed *nem con.*: "That this meeting of Ealing electors and others, believing that the exclusion of women from the Parliamentary Franchise is contrary to every principle of democracy, calls on the Government to introduce without delay a measure for the enfranchisement of women." The collection amounted to £3 5s. 2d.

FULHAM.—At the Sunday evening meeting on March 22nd, of the Fulham Ethical Society, Fulham Palace Road, Miss Goddard gave a very able and admirable address on "The Responsibilities of Women." It was listened to with great attention, and a very interesting discussion followed; Miss Goddard replying with much skill and knowledge to all the points raised. Thirteen "Friends" were enrolled.

ISLINGTON.—The Society held its final meeting for the season, at Barnsbury Hall, on March 27th. There was a good attendance and members were prompt in promising assistance at the Women's Kingdom Exhibition and at the forthcoming open-air meetings. The new platform is to be one of the exhibits at Olympia. The members gave a cordial vote of thanks to the Secretary for her work in the club and in the weekly news column in the local paper. It was felt that the Club had been of real service to the cause.

NORTH HACKNEY.—March 26th—Second meeting for "Friends" at Library Hall, Stoke Newington. Very wet night but about fifty to sixty present. Chair, Mrs. Challis. Very good speech from Mrs. Hunter, of Brixton, and suffrage songs. Seven "Friends'" cards signed. Programme written over front page of Albert Hall programme and sold.

HAMMERSMITH.—A series of four educational meetings has been held at the Gladstone Club, Goldhawk Road. On January 28th Mrs. Rogers spoke on "The Child and the State," the Chair being taken by Mrs. Jewell. On February 11th Miss E. Hill spoke on "Women and Municipal Life," Miss L. Neighbour presided. On February 25th Mrs. Hamilton spoke on "Children under the Poor Law," Miss Abrahams in the Chair. On March 11th Mrs. Ford Smith spoke on "Wives of Yesterday, To-day, and To-morrow," the Chair was taken by Mrs. Arnold. The speeches were on each occasion followed by a good discussion and gave rise to interesting questions.

HIGHGATE.—March 25th—A well-attended drawing-room meeting was given by Miss C. Sharp, at 4, Broadlands Road. Mrs. Ronald Garrett was in the Chair, and Mrs. Oliver Strachey gave a most interesting Suffrage speech. Some questions were asked and answered, and at the close of the meeting "Friends" were enrolled.

KINGSTON & SURBITON.—On March 19th a meeting was held in Kingston with the object of arousing the interest of the working women of the district on the subject of "Votes for Women." Miss Ruth Young gave a practical address, which was listened to with much interest by all present, and at the conclusion sixty-six new "Friends" were enrolled.

MARYLEBONE.—On March 24th an open-air meeting was held at the corner of East Street and Paddington Street, at which the speakers were Miss P. Fawcett, Miss Rinder, and Miss V. Cumming.

March 26th.—A public meeting was held in the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, at which Mr. Samuel Garrett presided, and the speakers were Miss Hay-Cooper and Miss Violet Martin. There were a good many men in the audience and the Suffrage resolution was carried unanimously. Forty-three copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold and "Friends'" cards signed.

PECKHAM.—On March 27th an open-air meeting was held at the corner of Nigel Road and Rye Lane. The speakers were Miss Fyffe and Miss Ellen Walshe. Two copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold and a few "Friends'" cards were signed.

ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE.—On March 5th the Misses Trollope gave a drawing-room meeting at 12, Chantrey House, Eccleston Street. Mrs. Arthur Savory was in the Chair, and Miss Hay-Cooper gave an address on "The Religious Aspect of the Woman's Movement." There was a good discussion.

STREATHAM.—A most successful At Home, was given by the Streatham Committee of the L.S. in St. Leonards Hall, Tooting Bec Gardens, on March 23rd. Tea was provided through the generosity of local members, and a Suffrage speech was given by Mrs. Ford Smith, to a most interested audience. The Chair was taken by Dr. Clara Fitter, and Miss Hoblyn also spoke on the work done by the London Society in Streatham during the past year. At the close of the meeting three new members were enrolled. Fifteen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and some literature and badges.

WALWORTH.—On March 24th Miss Janet H. Thomson, M.A., addressed the women's meeting at Browning Hall on "Josephine Butler and Her Life Work." Mrs. Herbert Stead presided, and thirty-three "Friends" of Women's Suffrage were enrolled.

Manchester and District.

ACCRINGTON. — March 8th — Miss Robertson addressed a great crowd at the men's discussion class in the Dowry Picture Palace

March 10th.—In the I.L.P. rooms a very successful meeting and social was held. Councillor Parker, J.P., of Clayton-le-moors was Chairman and Miss Robertson the speaker. There was a crowded attendance.

March 24th.—A campaign meeting and social was held in the I.L.P. rooms. Mr. Simmons presided, Mr. McKenn being the speaker. These campaign fortnightly meetings are very well attended and drawing the Suffrage and Labour workers together wonderfully.

ALDERLEY EDGE.—March 27th—Social evening. Chair, Mrs. J. R. Tomlinson—Speaker, Mrs. Annot Robinson. Songs by Miss Wood and Miss Clegg.

ALTRINCHAM DIVISION.—A very successful jumble sale was held in the Rigby Memorial Schools, Broadheath, on Saturday, March 21st. The proceeds were £15 3s. 4d.

BOLTON.—The annual meeting of the Society was held on March 2nd. Mr. H. M. Harwood presided, and Miss Helen Fraser gave an address. Over five dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and £2 14s. was collected. The annual report showed the Society to be in a flourishing condition, 160 new members have joined in the past year, including sixty-seven since January.

Mrs Blincoe, the Society's organiser, has during the month addressed meetings arranged by the Breightmet Free Church Mutual Improvement Society; by the Unity Church at Deane both for its Young Women's Class and for its Mothers' Union; and by the Halliwell Labour Club

The sales of THE COMMON CAUSE are still suffering from the effects of the bad weather. During February 334 copies were sold. The efforts of the Society are now concentrated upon its bazaar which will be opened on May 1st by Lady Rochdale and on May 2nd by Miss Margaret Ashton.

BUXTON.—A drawing-room meeting was held at Mrs. Thoday's, Lyme Park, Chinley, on Monday, March 23rd, when a new Society was formed. Mrs. Thoday, Secretary, and Mrs. Hazell, Treasurer. Eight members joined.

March 24th.—A public meeting was held in the Scouts' Troop House, Chinley. Speakers, Miss Thirza Pott, M.A., and Mr. P. Redfern. Chairman, D. Thoday, Esq., M.A. The room was filled to overflowing. Fourteen members joined, eight "Friends" cards were signed, and all copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

HASLINGDEN.—Mrs Berry gave a surprise supper to members and "Friends" on March 19th which brought in a substantial addition to the branch funds and was much enjoyed. A business meeting was held during the earlier part of the evening and an active campaign planned.

FARNWORTH.—A shop was opened daily for a week from February 21st to February 29th. Literature was distributed and over thirteen dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold. Several F.W.S. cards signed and much interest was shown in the movement. On Wednesday, March 18th Mrs. L. Barnes and Mrs. Affleck organised an "American Tea" in aid of the bazaar to be held in Bolton on May 1st and 2nd. Financially and otherwise it was a success.

HEYWOOD.—January 23rd—A fancy dress social and whist drive took place at St. John's Infants' School, Hopwood. The proceeds of this helped to advertise the public meeting held on March 4th in the Conservative Club. Miss Fraser and Mr. Fenner Brockway spoke and a suffrage resolution was passed. Twelve new members joined and [illegible] "Friends." Twenty-five copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold and several badges.

On March 9th was held the first of a series of monthly meetings for members and "Friends" in St. John's Vicarage (by kind permission of the Rev. T. and Mrs. Tozer). Speaker, Mrs. Russell.

HYDE.—Successful dinner-hour meetings held on February 26th, 27th, and March 2nd, 1914. Speakers, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Mrs. Chew, and Mrs. Annot Robinson, respectively.

A very successful public meeting held on March 3rd, 1914, when speakers were Miss Helen Fraser and Mr. J. R. Tomlinson. Chair, Councillor Walter Fowden. The resolution demanding a Government measure passed unanimously. Thirty-nine copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and twenty-three new members paid subscriptions and seven promised to join.

MARPLE BRIDGE.—The annual meeting of the above Society was held on Thursday, March 5th, in the Lecture Room, Congregational Schools. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were presented, and the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year elected. Miss Isabel Shanks was unanimously elected Hon. Secretary, in place of Mrs. Leonard, who is leaving the district. After the business meeting a lecture was given by Mr. F. W. Kolshammer, M.A., on "The Arguments Against Women's Suffrage."

RADCLIFFE.—The meeting of the Suffrage Club for men and women have been continued at the Assembly Room in the Co-operative Hall.

On February 3rd the Chair was taken by Mrs. F. S. Barnes, and Miss Margaret Ashton was the speaker. About 100 were present, and eight new members joined.

On February 19th Mr. F. S. Barnes spoke on "The History of the Movement."

On March 3rd Mrs. Atack spoke on the word "Obey," and an interesting discussion followed.

On March 17th Mrs. Harold Barnes spoke on "The Work of Women Guardians and its connection with Women's Suffrage."

The winter session closes with a social evening on March 31st. The meetings have proved to be successful, and it is hoped to continue them next winter.

ROMILEY.—Public meeting, Monday, April 20th, in Romiley Public Hall at 8 o'clock. Miss Margaret Ashton on "When the Vote is Won."

Friday, March 6th.—A meeting was held in Pridmore's Tea-rooms. An address was given by Mr. Percy Redfern (Marple Bridge) on "Economics for Women." In the Chair, Mr. H. S. Hope.

STOCKPORT.—On Thursday, March 11th, Miss Margaret Robertson addressed a meeting arranged by the Stockport Labour Party in the Central Hall. It was announced that a joint Suffrage and Labour week will be held in May in Stockport. A number of those present promised to act on the campaign committee which is being formed, and the I.L.P. Federation and the Labour Church have already given their support, while the Trades and Labour Council are considering the matter. Members of the Railwaymen's Guild and the Co-operative Guild are acting on the Committee.

On March 12th Miss Robertson and Mr. Fenner Brockway addressed a joint meeting of the Beswick

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and Bradford clubs while Mrs. J. R. Clynes was in the Chair. Ten new members were gained.

Several organisation meetings have been held during the month in N.E. Manchester. Mrs. Oldham and Mr. Clement Burdock have addressed the Arcoats and Bradford Suffrage clubs respectively.

The monthly meeting of members and "Friends" was held in Crossley's Café, on Monday 16th inst. Speaker, Mr. Stanton Barnes. Four new members have joined within the month.

East Midland Federation.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—The Burton W.S.S. closed its series of weekly market At Homes on March 11th. The speakers at the last two meetings were Mr. Austen Smith, a prominent member of the local I.L.P., and Mrs. Stones, of the Derby W.S.S., both of whom gave very interesting addresses. At the final meeting, so much regret was expressed at the closing of the series, that it was decided that monthly At Homes should be held, of a similar character to the weekly gatherings.

On Monday, March 2nd, the annual general meeting was held. The President, Mrs. Bubb, was unanimously re-elected, as were most of the officers and Committee of last year. The Hon. Sec., Miss Nichols, reported the satisfactory result of the entertainment of February 12th, for which hearty thanks were given to Mrs. Shercliff and her band of helpers.

CHESTERFIELD.—On March 10th, a meeting was held in connection with the B.W.T.A., when Mrs. Scurfield (wife of the Medical Officer of Health for Sheffield) spoke on "How the Cause of Temperance will benefit by Women's Suffrage."

CRICK.—The Society held its annual meeting on March 9th in the Rectory Club-room. Satisfactory reports were read and the following elections were made: Secretary, Mrs. Roberts; Treasurer, Mrs. Buckerfield; Committee, Miss Davis, Miss Middleton, and Mrs. Revington. An interesting address was given by Miss Gittens of Leicester, preceded by the performance of "Broken-down Motor-cars" by Miss Gittens and Mrs. Roberts. On March 23rd the Society joined the Rugby branch of the Church League in a service of intercession in Crick Church at which an address was given by the Rev. W. C. Roberts.

DERBY.—The Suffrage Club Room, which this Society has established in a good position in Derby, was formally opened on March 6th, when the Committee was At Home to a number of members and "Friends." The room is to be open every afternoon, and a small library of books on Suffrage and Feminist questions generally has been started in connection with it. It is hoped that the cheap teas which are to be provided for working women will help considerably towards meeting the expense. Lectures are to be given at the club every Friday afternoon, and Mrs. Worthington has already given two lectures on "The Child and the State."

A public meeting was held on February 23rd, when the Rev. G. Holmes-Gore, of Derby, took the Chair, and Miss Geraldine Cooke came down from headquarters to speak. The audience was sympathetic, and the speeches were much appreciated. The collection almost paid the expenses of the meeting, which were fairly heavy.

Arrangements are on foot to approach Mr. Gregory, who has been chosen Liberal candidate for South Derbyshire in place of Sir H. Raphael, M.P., who is retiring. Rumour has it that Mr. Gregory is a Suffragist, so it is hoped that our cause will benefit by the change.

LEICESTER.—The annual meeting was held at the Foresters' Institute on March 5th. The annual report, showing a year of considerable activity, was passed, and the Officers and Committee were elected or re-elected. A meeting of members and "Friends" followed, at which the Rev. F. Lewis Donaldson presided, and Miss Geraldine Cooke gave a stirring address on "The Present Position of the Suffrage Movement." The evening concluded with a short musical programme, and a Suffrage Duologue, "Broken-down Motors," in which the parts were taken by Miss Gittens and Miss McTurk Alexander.

The Society are pleased to find a good Suffragist in Mr. Percy Harris, the newly-selected Liberal candidate for the Harborough Division. In answer to a question put to him at a meeting by Mrs. H. T. Durrad, of the Leicester W.S.S., he has promised to include Women's Suffrage in his Election Address.

MANSFIELD.—A Suffrage meeting was held at Sutton-in-Ashfield on March 5th. The Rev. — Cook took the Chair, and Miss Abadam spoke on "The Vote, and how it will effect the White Slave Traffic." The Suffrage resolution was passed unanimously. Copies of THE COMMON CAUSE and literature were sold.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—A very successful meeting was held in the Masonic Hall on March 6th. The Chair was taken by Montague Dixon, Esq., M.D., and the speakers were Miss Geraldine Cooke and Miss Blackstone. About 150 people were present, and the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That this meeting believes that the enfranchisement of women is both just and desirable, and calls upon the member for this Division to do all in his power to forward the cause within his party." The collection amounted to £1 9s., and seven members and six "Friends" were enrolled.

NOTTINGHAM.—A very well attended At Home took place in February, when the Chair was taken by Canon Holbrook, one of our very best local supporters, and an extremely interesting, though somewhat depressing lecture was given by Miss Geraldine Cooke on "The Disabilities of Wives and Mothers." Mrs. Inglis also gave an At Home at her own house, when Miss Cécile Barclay recited and spoke. Fifteen new members joined.

Mrs. Gerard Dowson has found it necessary to resign her active work for the N.U. for a time, in order to recruit her strength. Cordial votes of thanks to her for her splendid work were passed by the Committee, and the new officers appointed in her stead were: Hon. Secs., Mrs. I'Anson and Mrs. Percy; Press Sec., Mrs. E. G. Leighton.

During this quarter the soap accounts for 1913 have been audited. The profits in 13 months were £34 18s. 5d., of which over £19 was sent to the Pilgrimage Funds.

ORGANISER'S WORK.—During the past fortnight Miss Blackstone has been working in Market Harborough with a view to forming a Society. There are about fourteen members there and it is hoped that six more will be forthcoming to form the twenty necessary for a Society.

On March 26th Miss Blackstone addressed a small meeting of members and "Friends" held in the Essendon School, Skegness, by kind permission of Miss Pagan. There is a Society of twenty-nine members in Skegness which hope to affiliate to the National Union.

South-Western Federation.

BARNSTAPLE.—A most successful meeting was held at the Parish Room on March 10th, when Miss Muriel Matters' speech aroused the greatest enthusiasm. The Chair was taken by Councillor J. T. White. The resolution "That this meeting asks for a Government measure to enfranchise women" was carried unanimously. Three new members and four "Friends" joined, and the collection amounted to £1 8s. 10d.

On March 16th, Mrs. Whalley gave an interesting lantern lecture on "Sweated Industries" in the village of Laudkey, which was greatly appreciated by the audience; eight "Friends" were afterwards enrolled.

ST. MINVER.—Owing to the generosity and untiring energy of Mrs. J. R. Macmillan, a village meeting was held in the Iredrizzeck School Room on March 11th, Miss Muriel Matters made an immense impression; she spoke for an hour and a quarter and then the audience were reluctant to go. Mr. Lawrence Shuttleworth also contributed an excellent speech.

TIVERTON.—The Heathcote Hall was kindly lent by Mr. Ian Amory on Wednesday, March 11th, when Mrs. Rackham, P.L.G., and Mrs. Whalley spoke with great effect to a larger audience than ever before in Tiverton. The Chair was taken by the President, H. Acland Troyte, Esq., and the Mayor was on the platform. The usual resolution, calling upon the Government to enfranchise women, was passed unanimously. Three new members and twelve "Friends" joined, twelve copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold and £1 7s. 4d. collected.

BODMIN.—A most successful invitation meeting was held on the afternoon of March 12th in the Small Hall, arranged by Miss Joyce Foster The audience took a keen and intelligent interest in the address. As there is no local Society in Bodmin, the subject of Women's Suffrage is somewhat new to the place, and the success of this meeting is most marked.

ST. IVES.—The Public Hall was crowded on March 12th to hear Mrs. Rackham speak on "The State and the Child." The Rev. Vincent Scully presided, and other well-known people were on the platform. The meeting resulted in nineteen new members and "Friends," and a collection of £3 6s. 9d.

PLYMOUTH.—A public meeting was held on March 12th in the Corn Exchange, with Dr. Mabel Ramsay, M.D., in the Chair. Miss Muriel Matters, the speaker had an immense reception, and was listened to with rapt attention. The usual resolution was carried with only three dissentients, two of these being boys under eighteen. Fourteen new members and "Friends" joined and literature and copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON.—A reception was held at the Public Rooms on Friday, March 13th, when Mrs. Rackham spoke on "Women's Suffrage in Practice" and "The Legal Aspect of Women's Suffrage." In the interval between the two short addresses, a women's orchestra performed. Fifteen new members and "Friends" were gained, while a good deal of literature and two dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

SALTASH.—A public meeting was held on the same evening at the Y.M.C.A. with Dr. Mabel Ramsay in the Chair. The usual resolution was carried unanimously. Six new members and "Friends" joined. Miss Muriel Matters gave a most eloquent speech which was most heartily appreciated.

Mrs. Whalley has given most successful lantern lectures on "Sweated Industries" in Teignmouth, Dawlish, and Dartmouth. In each place she has gained new members and "Friends," and aroused enormous interest for the cause. At Dartmouth, Bishop Boyd Carpenter presided.

The village meetings throughout the Totnes constituency have been a great success, and Mrs. Whalley has been much appreciated as a speaker, but the reports of some meetings have not been received.

SOUTH BRENT.—March 25th—Millshood Hall. The Chair was taken by Miss Parker. This was the first Women's Suffrage meeting held in Brent. There was a good attendance. Ten copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold and ten "Friends" were gained. The usual resolution was carried.

CORNWOOD.—On March 26th, the School Room was crowded by an enthusiastic audience. This was in great measure due to the kindness of the vicar, the Rev. T. F. Powning, who took the Chair and had previously announced the meeting. Mrs. Whalley made an excellent speech and the resolution "calling upon the Government to introduce a measure for the enfranchisement of women" was carried.

IVYBRIDGE.—A meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms on March 27th, Mrs. Whalley again spoke very well, and the usual resolution was carried.

South Wales and Monmouthshire.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT.—February 27th—The Penarth branch of the Primrose League held a meeting to which they allowed us to send a speaker. Miss Violet Martin of the Coll W.F.A. kindly consented and gave a very able address which was listened to with great interest. Mr. Frank Gaskell, the Conservative candidate for S. Glamorgan, was present and expressed his agreement with the terms of the Conciliation Bill. He said he had always been in sympathy with the effort to secure the vote for women, and he was prepared to work and vote for that measure of enfranchisement to which he thought women entitled.

March 6th.—A very successful meeting was held in the Park Hall, one of the largest, if not the largest, hall in Cardiff, and the fact that it was well filled is significant of the increased interest in Women's Suffrage. The meeting was got up in conjunction with the Cardiff Branch of the Church League, and the Cardiff Progressive Liberal Women's Union, and to this union of forces was perhaps due the pleasant diversity in the speeches. Miss Helen Fraser spoke first, and, as always, she held her audience by the force of sweet reasonableness and by the high plane on which she based her argument. She was followed by Canon Haigh, of Bristol, who dealt with objections built on quotations from the Bible, his dramatic fervour making a strong appeal to many of his hearers. Mr. Acland's pronouncement as a member of the Government was listened to with much interest. He reiterated his statement that he would not permanently take office under a Government which refused the vote to women, and he made it clear that in his opinion no measure other than a Government measure could be successful. Our President, Mrs. Lewis, of Greenmeadow, presided most ably over the meeting, and was supported on the platform by many people prominent in the town and representative of all types of political thought. More than £40 worth of tickets were sold and this with a collection of £18 left us with a balance of over £13. Fifteen dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

BARRY BRANCH has decided to hold monthly meetings except during the summer holidays and for this purpose has engaged the Lecture Room of the Y.M.C.A., Barry Dock. The committee proposes inviting acting members of the various local boards and councils to come and explain their work and its responsibilities. The first of the very interesting series of meetings took place on March 13th, when Miss Maud Rees Jones spoke on "The Work of a Poor Law Guardian."

RADYR BRANCH.—A very successful drawing-room meeting was held at Radyr by kind invitation of Mrs. D. G. Jones. The Chair was taken by Mr. J. H. Shaxby, and an excellent speech was made by Miss E. M. Barke, M.A.

BRIDGEND.—On a date not reported a spirited debate was held when a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage was carried with only three dissentients. Miss Collin, M.A., spoke on behalf of the N.U.W.S.S. The Society has been restarted under the able secretaryship of Miss Ellen Lloyd. It was agreed that the Society should meet fortnightly, but no reports have been received of these meetings.

March 22nd.—A meeting of the Railwaymen was addressed by Miss Foxley, M.A.

MERTHYR AND DISTRICT.—On March 16th a public meeting was held in the Tydfil Hall. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor presided. The speakers were Mrs. Rackham and Miss Foxley, M.A. A resolution was passed demanding the enfranchisement of women. Thirteen new members joined.

NEWPORT.—Miss Foxley, M.A., has addressed the following meetings:—March 1st, a meeting of Railwaymen at Rogerstown; March 8th, a meeting of the Literary Society of the Longeroes Street Baptist Church; March 22nd, a meeting of the I.L.P.

NEATH AND DISTRICT.—During the month two meetings have been held, the first was addressed by Miss Neal, of Swansea, who spoke on "The History of the Women's Suffrage Movement"; the second was addressed by Mr. J. B. Rowlands.

PONTYPRIDD.—On March 15th, at the Y.M.C.A., a meeting was addressed by Miss Foxley, M.A.

PORT TALBOT.—On March 20th a meeting was addressed by Miss Foxley, M.A. Eighteen new members joined. It was anticipated that after this meeting a new Society would be started. Whether this has been done has not been reported.

March 29th.—A meeting of the Railwaymen, Branch 2, was addressed by Mrs. Tonner.

PONTYPOOL.—On March 17th a meeting was addressed by Mrs. Rackham. Several new members joined. The Society has found its area too big to be worked from Pontypool, and is therefore dividing the area into wards, and ward secretaries are being appointed. It is expected that Pontypool will "run a good second to Newport."

SWANSEA.—March 3rd.—A drawing-room meeting was held, by kind invitation of Mrs. Coonan, at the Mumbles. Mr. Mirrlees addressed the meeting. Twelve new members joined. Copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold well.

March 11th.—The local Suffrage Societies held a debate. Mrs. Harold Schenk spoke on behalf of the N.U.W.S.S. Neither the subject nor the result of this debate has been reported.

COWBRIDGE.—On March 17th a meeting was addressed by Miss Foxley, M.A. Fifteen new members joined.

YSTRAD RHONDDA.—ON March 1st a meeting of railwaymen was addressed by Dr. Erie Evans. A resolution demanding a Government measure was passed unanmously.

Ystrad Rhondda has a Society in working order, which is said to meet at frequent intervals, Unfortunately, no reports of these meeting have been received.

Secretaries are requested, in sending in their reports of meetings, to specify the date of the month when they were held—not the day of the week.

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Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urgently requested to write distinctly; and to send in NOT LATER THAN THE MONDAY before the announcement is to be inserted. Notices must be addressed to the Sub-Editor.

London.

APRIL 3.

Hampstead—124, Heath Street—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Miss Lister 3.30

Surbiton—Assembly Rooms—Public Meeting—Speakers, Sir William Chance, Mrs. Nott Bower—Chair, Mr. Herbert Moates Ellis, M.P. 8.30

Westminster Palace Hotel—Victoria Street—London Society's Reception—Speakers, Miss I. O. Ford, Sir Lawrence Gomme—Chair, Miss Rosamond Smith 3.30—6.15

The Provinces.

APRIL 3.

Deal and Walmer—Public Meeting.

Exeter—Barnfield Hall—Speaker, Miss M. Matters—Chair, Miss M. P. Willcocks, B.A. 8.0

Greenstead Green—Speakers, Miss Courtauld and Miss Creak

Guildford—Suffrage Office, 1a, Mount Street—Miss Ruth Young, on "Disabilities of Women in Industry" 3.0

Newcastle—Y.M.C.A., 4, Saville Place—Annual Meeting 7.30

Norton—Church Schools—Speakers, Mr. Harrison and others.

Rotherfield—Spout Farm—Miss Penrose Philp (Sec. State Children's Association) on "81,000 State Children: What to do with them."

St. Annes-on-Sea—St. George's Hall—Public Meeting—Speaker, Miss Jessie Beavan—Chair, Mr. C. F. Critchley, C.C. 8.0

St. Olaves—The Tun—Speaker, Miss Waring—Chair, Dr. Worthington 8.0

Southampton—Art Gallery—Address, with lantern views, on Japan, by Mrs. Russell Rea 8.0

Stone—Reading Room, Town Hall—Mrs. Highfield Jones on "The Meaning of the Women's Movement"—Chair, Mrs. Hosking 7.30

Thornborough—The Schools—Speaker, Miss D. Mason, M.A 7.0

Westcliff—Suffrage Tea—Hostess, Mrs. Ashton.

APRIL 4.

Brighton—7, Stanford Avenue—Drawing-room Meeting for Preston members and their friends—Hostess, Mrs. Singleton—Speaker, Miss Pickworth 3.30

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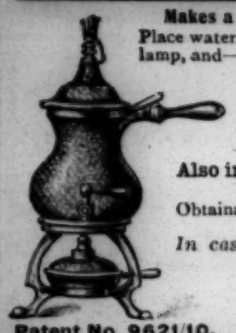

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Holstead—The Vicarage Schoolroom—Miss Courtauld and Miss Creak on "Why Teachers want the Vote"—Chair, the Rev. T. H. Curling 10.30
Hoddesdon—The Baths—Speaker, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Miss Ruth Young and others—Chair, Mr. John Cameron Grant 8.0
Preston—Café Orient—Entertainment for members and "Friends," to include the one act play "An Englishwoman's Home" 7.30

APRIL 5.
Birmingham—Halesowen Men's Adult School—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8 a.m.
Darlington—Unitarian Church—Miss Lucas on "The Ethics of the Women's Movement" 6.30
Lowestoft—Battery Green—Trades Council Open-air Meeting—Speaker, Miss Waring 11.30

APRIL 6.
Birmingham—Miss Preston will address the Oldbury Vestry Mothers 3.0
Brighton—Women's Franchise Club, 4, New Road—Meeting for Brighton and Kemptown members and their friends—Speakers, Mrs. Coombe Tennant and Miss Merrifield.
Croydon—34a, The Arcade, High Street—Mrs. Carter on "The Moral Effect of the Vote" 3.30
Manchester—Oldfield Hall, Gardenwall Street—South Salford Suffrage Club—Speaker, Mrs. Muter Wilson 8.0
Needham Market—B.W.T.A.—Speaker, Mrs. Vulliamy.
Southport—Girls' Club, Lord Street—At Home—Hostess, Mrs. F. Coop—Speaker, Mrs. Buckner 4.0
Wolverhampton—St. Peter's Institute—Speakers, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Mrs. Osler—Chair, Alderman Richards 8.0
Worthing—1, Warwick Street—Annual Meeting for Members 8.0

APRIL 7.
Accrington—I.L.P. Rooms—Suffrage and Labour Campaign—Speaker, Mr. Frankland—Chair, Mr. Henry Carter—Admission 3d.
Bristol—40, Park Street—At Home 3—5
Harlow—Victoria Hall—Speaker, Miss Creak 8.0
Sidcup—Literary Institute—Miss Griffith-Jones on "George Eliot in Relation to the Woman's Movement."
Southsea—The Suffrage Room—2, Kent Road—Mr. J. Cameron Grant on "The Economic Value of the Vote" 3 and 8
Wolverhampton—"The Larches"—Drawing-room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Garrett Rice—Speaker, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. 3.30

APRIL 8.
Cambridge—20, Green Street—Meeting for Members of Cambridge Society 2.30
Gateshead—1, Cuthbert Street, Bensham—Miss Burgham on "George Eliot, Novelist"—Elocutionist, Miss Adah Roantree 7.30

APRIL 9.
Bristol—Greenbank Co-operative Guild—Miss Tanner on "Professor Stuart."

Scotland.

APRIL 3.
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home" 4.30
Glasgow—Charing Cross Halls—Miss Lucy Shakspeare on "The Methods of Reformers" 3.0
Oban—Meeting—Speaker, Miss Crompton 3.0

APRIL 4.
Crieff—Mr. M. D. Stewart's Auction Room—Jumble Sale 2.0
Cupar—Stratheden Temperance Hotel Hall—25, Bonnygate—Jumble Sale—Admission 2d. 2.30
Glasgow—202, Hope Street—Conference of Delegates from Men's Organisations *re* Protest Meeting—Tea 3.0

APRIL 7.
Gourock—Gamble Institute—Annual Business Meeting—Speaker, Miss McGregor.

THE ORGANISERS' UNION.

The first annual meeting of the Organisers' Union was held in the New Century Club, Hay Hill, London, W., on Sunday, February 15th. There was a very large attendance. The annual report was read and adopted and a vote of thanks to the Officers and Committee passed with acclamation. The Committee for the coming year was elected as follows:—

Miss Margaret Robertson (E.F.F.), Chairman.
Miss C. M. Gordon (N. E. Federation), Hon. Secretary.
Miss D. Darlington (Manchester and District Federation) Hon. Treasurer.
Miss Rinder (London Society).
Miss Gill (Oxford Society).
Miss Mason (Oxford, Bucks, and Berks Federation).
Miss Griffith Jones (Kentish Federation).

A badge has just been issued and has proved extremely popular, over fifty having been sold before the meeting.

A brief summary of the activities of the Union has been sent to all organisers, organising secretaries, and to Federations and Societies employing organisers.

SUFFRAGE CLUB IN ROTHERHAM.

The E.F.F. Committee is busy forming a Suffrage Club. In connection with this, two "At Homes" have been held in the I.L.P. rooms during the last month. One was held on March 10th, when Miss I. O. Ford spoke. About 200 F.W.S. attended. The other was held on March 26th, on the occason of Miss Margaret Robertson's visit to the West Riding. Both meetings were a very great success. A year ago it was difficult to beat up a meeting of any kind for the Suffrage Cause in Rotherham, as so few people were interested in the movement. During the past year, since March 1st, 1913, we have enrolled over 800 friends and about 60 new members.

A members' meeting was held on Friday night, March 27th, when Miss Robertson converted several people to the E.F.F. policy.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

Our readers are earnestly requested to support the Advertisers in the paper. Only firms of the highest repute are accepted by us, and if all readers will deal exclusively with them, it will materially help *The Common Cause.*

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Coming Events.

We shall be glad to announce Meetings of Societies, Lectures, etc., in this column at a charge of 2s. per insertion of 24 words. To ensure insertion in our next issue all advertisements must be received not later than Wednesday morning. All communications should be addressed to the Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 2, Robert-st., Adelphi.

ETHICAL CHURCH, QUEEN'S ROAD, W. April 5th. Dr Stanton Coit. 11, "Mr. Zangwill's Melting Pot." 7, "'The Writing on the Wall' of Birmingham Cathedral."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton Street, W. Subscription, One Guinea. Luncheons 1s. 3d., Dinners 1s. 6d. The Club possesses an excellent Library. All particulars, Secretary.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Monday, April 6th, at 8.30 p.m. "Woman under the Law." By Mr. Cecil Chapman, Miss Zoë Hawley, and Miss Jean Forsyth.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Tuesday, April 7th, at 3 p.m. New Constitutional Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. "Woman in Brieux's Plays." Mrs. Douglas Knocker, Mrs. Cecil Chapman.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

SUFFRAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LEAGUE OF JUSTICE.—22, South Molton-st., W. A Feminist League. Join it and strengthen the New Militancy (law-abiding) for the Cause.

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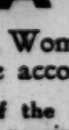

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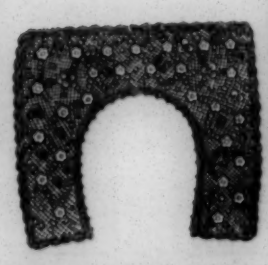

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